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FREE

Crewkerne
WEEKENDER

February 11 2011 Issue 20

YOUTH SPEAKS

Page 5

Your complete leisure guide to the weekend in South Somerset

Barrett Bros gets a 5-star billing

- page 6

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weekenderannouncements

To Uncle Sid, Have a happy birthday on 14th Feb. Lots of love, Jordan & Keeley x

Bethy Harwood Happy 18th Birthday on Valentine's Day, love from Nan & Grandad xxx

Pat, Love on Valentine's Day and our Wedding Anniversary, 56 years

30 Happy 30th Birthday Sid on Valentine's Day. Love from Mark & Carri

30 Sid Brown Have a lovely 30th birthday on Valentine's Day. Love from Mum & Dad

18 Beth Harwood Happy 18th Birthday on 14th Feb. Lots of love , Mum, Dad, Chloe & Grace xxx

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weekenderweather

Friday 11th Feb	Saturday 12th Feb	Sunday 13th Feb	Monday 14th Feb
Light Rain High 11° Low 4°	Partly Cloudy High 9° Low 4°	Rain High 8° Low 3°	Partly Cloudy High 6° Low 3°

Tuesday 15th Feb	Wednesday 16th Feb	Thursday 17th Feb
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The WEEKENDER Your Weekend Starts Here.....

Website of the week

www.dyersofilminster.com

The old meets the new

The oldest and longest standing business in Ilminster, Dyers of Ilminster, entered the 21st century this week by launching its very own website.

The local shop, which has been in business since 1870 and has been cited as one of the best preserved traditional drapers in the country will now have global appeal and presence.

Initially a static website, www.dyersofilminster.com will give local people and visitors to the town a view of the wide variety of items available in store and provide them with a background on the history of the shop and its 17th century building.

Just like the store itself, the website has ladies, gentlemenís, shoe, lingerie, homeware and haberdashery departments. It is hoped that as the website evolves, customers will be able to buy online from the comfort of their own homes.

It will change every season to showcase the best of its stock and currently features images of Dyers of Ilminsterís latest Spring collection of ladies and gentlemenís clothing. These include clothing from leading ladies brands such as Oscar B, Slimma, Tulchan, Gabriella Knight, Emreco, Alice Collins and Jackpot plus popular Gentlemenís clothing brands such as Wolsely, Brook Taverner, Meyer, Viyella and Peter England.

Speaking of the shopís latest initiative, owner Jacqui Speke said:'The website is part of our ongoing development of Dyers of Ilminster, making it more accessible and just as relevant to the needs of the local and surrounding communities in the 21st century as it was when it was founded in the 19th century'.

Tails wag for Blue Cross appeal

■ ANNE WILLSON and the dog walkers before they set out

AROUND 25 owners and their various pooches gathered outside the Kingfisher Veterinary Practice in Crewkerne last Sunday for a circular walk around the outskirts of the town.

Although the day was overcast,veterinary nurse Anne Willson was delighted with the turn out for her sponsored event which raised £74.94 towards her target for Blue Cross.

This was the first of a series of fundraisers the nurse will be holding to try and raise £3,200 towards Blue Cross facilities in the UK and her Borneo challenge to help the work of the Blue Cross with the Orang-utans endangered due to deforestation.

She would like to thank everyone who went along and hopes for an equally good response to her next event on Saturday, February 26th, a nearly new clothes sale at the Speedwell Hall, Abbey Street, from 9am -12noon.

Crewkernenews

Forest row

LOCAL Green Party member, Ben Hartshorn of Crewkerne, said his party had branded MP David Laws as utterly irresponsible for voting to back the government's forestry sell off.

Mr Hartshorn, said: "I am appalled that David Laws can think it reasonable to sell off our forests, one of our country's greatest assets. This is an utterly irresponsible act of environmental vandalism."

Mr Hartsharn wrote to Mr Laws, who replied that he "would not support any plans which compromised in any way public access to our forests and countryside".

Aqua centre model

CREWKERNE Aqua Centre has been held up as a model, as it was announced that Goldstones Pools and Leisure Centre in Yeovil will be run by a charitable trust from April this year.

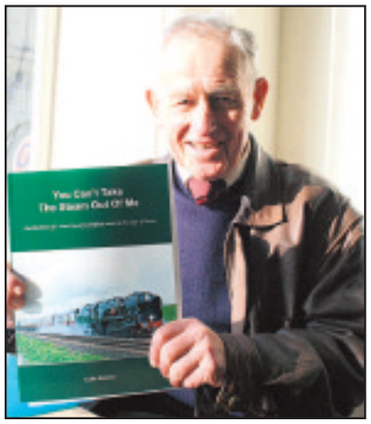
The district council had considered various management options and decided the success of the non- profit making trust in Crewkerne should be emulated at the Yeovil facility.

Junior rugby

CREWKERNE Rugby club are running a junior school club link rugby event on Monday, February14th, at Henhayes Recreation Ground.

Up to 100 children are expected to be playing tag rugby as part of their club school link programme.

Steaming up some memories of Crewkerne railway



■ SHARING THE MEMORIES: Colin Robins You Can't Take the Steam out of Me

LAST year when the 150th anniversary of Crewkerne railway station was being celebrated, Colin Robins who put his lifetime passion for the railway into a book of his life was signing copies of "You Can't Take the Steam out of Me" at the Heritage Centre.

Brought up in Lyme Road, Colin became a junior porter at the age of 15. Now 75 and living in Hampshire Mr Robins loves coming back to visit.

He said it was heartbreaking to come in on the train and see the waiting room all locked up at Crewkerne station. The book is full of memories and photographs of life on the railway from Mr Robins diaries, kept since 1930. He said: "I didn't write it to make money out of it, just to cover the costs and as long as people are interested I will keep publishing. So many people in the town still remember the railway as it was."

The book follows the grime sweat and tears and fun of life the footplate and includes an excerpt about the day Mr Robins witnessed a near disaster when a train partially derailed in the station in 1953. He said: "Her middle driving wheel on the driver's side was off the track and resting inside the rail, the either side coupling rods were grotesquely bent. Even I could see that if one of those rods had broken there would have been a major disaster."

Colin Robins' book is on sale at Hooked on Books in Chard and through his friend Graham James at James Hardware in Crewkerne.

SouthSomersetnews

Slay the Dragon

DON'T FORGET Hinton St George Church of England School Parent Friends Association will hold their third Slay The Dragon 10K and fun run this Sunday, February 13th, starting from the village playing field at 10.30am.

Local schools have been practising for the new cup, which will go to the school with the fastest three runners.

For more details go to **www.slaythedragon.co.uk**

■ NEW TROPHY: School Sports coordinator Bob Brunt, Pip Loder and her son Oliver with the new Slay the Dragon school trophy

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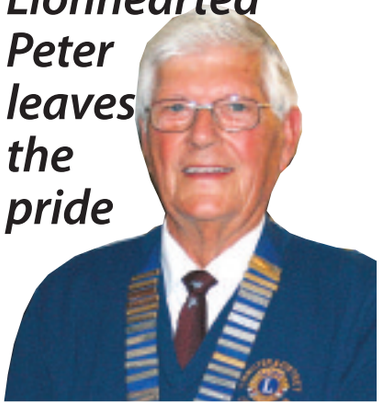

IT WAS with great sadness the Ilminster and District Lions Club announced the death of their President Peter Lawrence, who died on February 3rd at St Margaret's Hospice.

Acting Club President, Peter Marshall, said: "Peter has been a member of Lions for 20 years, initially with the Taunton club, and for the past few years with Ilminster.

"He was an enthusiastic, energetic and active member. He was always supportive and willing to give his time to help others, especially young people. His contribution to Lions will be sorely missed."

Peter had joined Ilminster after the Taunton club folded and chose to continue with them despite the current reformation in his home town. He was a flamboyant member of the team, always keen to talk to the public at every opportunity.

He was also involved with Taunton Flower Show and members of the Ilminster Lions took their fundraising there in recent years.

Rural crime team makes a difference

A RURAL crime team introduced to the area less than a year ago has already had a big effect by making 40 arrests and recovering £100,000 of stolen plant.

The dedicated rural crime team was introduced in April 2010 and Ilminster beat manager Louise Cowell was seconded to the team, which focussed on offenders targeting rural communities to commit crimes including the theft of plant, livestock, fuel and scrap metal.

The team was initially in place for six weeks but due to its success has twice been extended and will continue to run until at least December 2011.

Rural crime was identified as a priority because of the high value of farm machinery and the significant impact this has on the livelihood of the victims. Following a detailed analysis of the problem a plan was put in place to tackle the problem. The measures were designed to make it harder for criminals to operate, by improving intelligence about the people involved and removing opportunities for them to sell the stolen items.

Officers have been encouraging farmers to sign up to a Farm Watch scheme. Farmers are provided with signs for their fences which show they are part of the scheme, have access to crime prevention advice and can work with the police to send and receive information about people committing crime on farms. There are now more than 800 farms signed up to the scheme - an increase of 400 per cent since April 2010.

Other measures to tackle rural crime include making it harder for criminals to move stolen scrap metal on the roads by stopping vehicles carrying waste materials. Businesses transporting waste must have a waste carriage licence and police checks ensure they have the correct paperwork and are not carrying stolen materials. So far eight people have been issued with fines for not having a licence.

Police are also attending plant, property and land auctions to meet farmers and look for stolen property that may be up for sale. Money from crime is sometimes used to buy property at auctions so police officers will use powers to seize money if they believe it is gained from crime. The rural crime team regularly attend land and property auctions and have seized money under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Because of this auction houses across South Somerset do not now accept any cash for purchases, making it difficult for criminals to launder the money they get from crime.

Other tactics being used to fight rural crime include working with the National Equipment Register to identify stolen plant. There is also a dedicated Police Community Support Officer to work with scrap dealers to improve the checks they make on people selling metal and share information about the people involved in crime. Showing the benefits this can bring, police alerted scrap dealers to the theft of 14 taps from a village. A dealer contacted the police and the offender was identified, arrested and admitted a further 71 thefts in rural villages around South Petherton. He was convicted of all the offences and received a custodial sentence.

Sergeant Ed Hawkins leads the rural crime team which also includes PC Tim Rust, PC Lou Cowell and PCSO Matt Tailby. Speaking about the team, Sergeant Hawkins said: "Since the introduction of the rural crime team we have made a real impact on rural crime in the area. We have made 40 arrests and five of those have already been given custodial sentences. We have had more than 700 pieces of intelligence about rural crime and known offenders and we have seized £100,000 of plant and £4,700 of cash.

"We have sent a clear message to rural criminals that we will not let them target our communities. I hope the results we have achieved also reassures residents that we are determined to protect them from crime. We will continue to be relentless in cracking down on rural crime and will examine all the information we get about people committing offences."

If you have information about people committing crime in your area contact Avon and Somerset Police on 0845 456 7000. You can also call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. They never ask your name or trace your call.

Village youth services under threat

WITH their libraries already under threat, the villages of South Petherton and Martock now face the withdrawal of county council funding for their youth clubs.

Detailed proposals to cut the cost of providing youth services across Somerset were revealed last week.

Somerset County Council had already announced it would reduce funding to youth services over the next three years by around 75 per cent and the first details of that reduction show that of the 12 current county council owned youth centres, seven could be handed over to community or voluntary groups to take over and run.

More than 30 other community based youth groups are currently supported with the county council providing youth work staff or finance but held in buildings such as village halls and community-owned youth centres.

Of these, 11 face closure although it is hoped that many of these will continue to operate through support from volunteers or voluntary organisations. Other youth services provided by youth workers will also be reduced.

Cabinet member for children and young people, councillor John Osman, said the proposals would save the authority £2.25m over three years: "Reducing Somerset County Council's youth services will have an impact on some young people across the county. I am sure though that many of these centres will continue to operate and we are already in detailed talks with several groups and partners keen to explore alternatives."

Pack looking for a new Brown Owl

ILMINSTERS first Brownie pack is looking for a new leader to take responsibility for running its weekly Monday evening meetings.

The current Brown Owl, Helen Wood, will be leaving the pack in the coming months and an enthusiastic person is being sought to take charge and ensure the survival of the group.

The role entails planning, organising and overseeing the 1st Ilminster Brownies' meetings, which take place in the parish hall once a week during term-time. Two assistant leaders help out - but the Brownies need someone to come in as Brown Owl. Full training will be provided.

Around 20 girls aged 7 - 10 meet from 5pm - 6.30pm and play an active role in the community. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Claire on 07815 031 433, or email claire.nurse@hotmail.com.

■ PLEASE HELP US: Ilminster 1st Brownies need a new Brown Owl

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Youth speaks up

QUALITY NOT QUANTITY: The four teams from Wadham and Huish Episcopi

By Marion Draper

DESPITE a disappointing number of entries for the Rotary Club of Crewkerne Youth Speaks competition at Wadham School, there was no lack of quality in the presentations and the audience were treated to a range of stimulating subjects.

The newly formed sixth form of Huish Episcopi had entered two teams in the senior section with their team B winning over their fellows and the one Wadham senior team.

In the intermediate group there was only one Wadham team with no opposition but the judges felt they were definitely of a standard to go through to the semi-final along with the senior winners.

The judges were Dorothy Tozer, Philip Hardwill and Rotarian Peter Chard who all had experience in business.

Hewish team A led the way with an amusing take on "Can you believe what you read?" with the chairperson making a good introduction of her fellow members, speaker Alex Mitchell and proposer Kim Ellis. The subject attacked the media for misrepresentation of young people as always being bad, with too much emphasis on muggings and street violence and rarely seen stories of youth achievement (it was suggested afterward they read ***The Weekender*** in future).

Hewish B who came out on top, asked "What has Become of our National Identity?" the team of Sam Foulder-Hughes, Chris Adams and Andrew Corns asked what was British when the Royals were Greek and German. There was a good use of quotes from other people and historical references showing they had researched the subject well. There were interesting references to nostalgic things some people may think were British, like chess which is from India.

Speaker Sam said how fantastic our diverse nation was, with the rich influence of so many cultures and languages and said we were "famously a nation of support who love to party" and in 2012 when the Olympics come we will invite everyone to the biggest party of all. All three team members spoke well and clearly, with a good introduction and summing up as well as the vote of thanks.

The Wadham senior team of all girls were all football supporters and came up with the subject "It does not always take balls". Chairperson Augustinah Olawuni introduced speaker Leanne Cossins who coaches Merriott under 16s and proposer Sian Rowlands. The speaker had a lot to say about the unequal world of coverage for women's football, particularly the lack of financial reward and opportunity for product endorsement. There was a ripple of applause when it was pointed out that women who are tackled on the pitch get up and keep going, as opposed to rolling around in agony like their male counterparts!

Wadham intermediates ; Kundai Munetsi, Finn Barker and George Cleary told their audience about the risks of Google collecting personal information from its billions of users in the internet. They had an in-depth grasp of the complexities behind the giant which is now involved in projects beyond the web and asked: "Are we being led like sheep into a world where Google controls absolutely everything?"

While the judges deliberated, everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by members of Inner Wheel. The Rotary Club of Crewkerne would like to thank Wadham School for the use of their facilities.

WELL DONE: Winners, judges and Crewkerne Rotary president elect David Welch

Traders can use Chard recycling

THE TRADE waste section of Chard Recycling Centre at Beeching Close will open on Monday, February 14th, over a year after the site itself was opened and small businesses will have a new specialist service available for their recycling needs.

The new service will be run by Viridor and located at a separately identified area of the site providing extensive recycling facilities at competitive prices for small and medium businesses.

It will offer recycling or disposal of a comprehensive range of materials and items covering more than 20 types, from glass bottles to gas bottles, televisions to timber.

Prices ranging from no charge for cellphones to £1.20 for a crate of newspapers, £2.40 for a dustbin of clean timber and £48 for a large van load of soil and hardcore (all including VAT). A price list is available on the SWP Business Recycling Advice web page and from the Chard site.

Open Monday to Friday, 9am-12noon and 1pm-4pm, and on Saturdays, 9am-12noon, the Chard service aims to meet the needs of businesses that do not need regular collections by contractors, may discard only small amounts or require short-term extra services.

Somerset Waste Partnership Business Recycling Advisor Helen Ridler said: "SWP has been very successful, in partnership with Viridor, in increasing household recycling rates and we would like to do more to help smaller businesses to recycle legally at low cost.

"We are sure businesses will find the new Chard centre a great resource, cutting their costs and travel, and ensuring they have all the paperwork and follow all the rules on waste."

THE WEEKEND STARTS HERE!

National hygiene rating for local firms

By Marion Draper

SOUTH Somerset District Council has joined the Food Standards Agency's Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, which rates premises from zero, where urgent improvements are needed, to five where compliance with hygiene law is very good.

The scheme was launched by the FSA in November and had already been adopted by other local authorities in Somerset. The standard will be the same for all parts of the region which means that now anyone wondering how hygienic pubs, takeaways and food businesses are in the Crewkerne, Chard and Ilminster area, will be able to find out. Schools and community hospitals have also been assessed.

People can look up the ratings online and can make informed choices about where to eat out or buy food.

The scheme is designed to drive up standards across the district by encouraging food businesses to keep up good practices or further improve their hygiene. Having a single scheme operating in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will help to ensure consistency for businesses and clarity for consumers across local authority boundaries.

A selection of those who received a five-star rating in south Somerset District were chosen to be part of the launch in the area. They included Barrett Brothers butchers in Crewkerne and Bakery Roy-Al of Martock.

Their rating is clearly displayed with a certificate on the premises.

Councillor Ric Pallister, South Somerset District Council's Deputy Leader and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder said: "This scheme is an excellent way of raising awareness of food hygiene, allowing people to see how premises are operating against hygiene legislation and helping to improve standards.

"We've had some very positive feedback already. Of course, if a business receives a low rating then we offer them every assistance to help them improve and work towards compliance with food safety regulations.

"The emphasis is on keeping standards high for our residents and visitors and also helping businesses to understand what they need to do to operate safe, clean and successful premises. Driving up standards benefits the customers, the business and hence the economy of South Somerset; everyone wins. We are pleased to be one of the first councils across the country to join the national scheme."

To see the food ratings, visit www.southsomerset.gov.uk/food or visit the national website, www.food.gov.uk/scores

■ BARRETT BROTHERS BUTCHERS: Nigel O'Grady, SSDC principal food safety officer, district councillor Ric Pallister, butcher Gary Pocock, and Chris Lewis, SSDC food safety officer

■ BAKERY ROY-AL: Annette Barrell, SSDC food safety officer, Roy Legg of Bakery Roy-Al and Nigel O'Grady SSDC principal food safety officer

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Kids find fun in the kitchen

By Marion Draper

TRAINED chef Aaron Driver, known in Ilminster for his shop Cornhill Wines, is offering his skills at his son's school in Hambridge where they started a Let's Get Cooking club after school last year.

Every Tuesday after school, a group of children meet in the village hall and they make three or four things. Following the recipes themselves, they cook healthy food from scratch, with guidance from the volunteer adults and then gather around a table for a tasting session. This week they made a herb omelette, a tasty tortilla with peppers onions and potatoes, bacon, leek and cheese muffins and an omelette with cheese, onions, peas and mint. The children said how much they enjoyed the club and it had given them the confidence to cook at home for their families and friends.

School teacher and club co-ordinator Zoe Dennis said they were working through the different age groups. She added how wonderful it was to have a professional helping in the kitchen and other parents were volunteering as well. Mrs Dennis commented: "This is such a brilliant scheme, they provide everything and it is so good for the children, I don't know why more people aren't doing it. The parents here are very supportive and some of the children were helping a little in the kitchen at home but they have so much more confidence to do it themselves this way."

While they were enjoying their tasting the children, all between eight and ten, were asked what they had learned that was new or challenging. Some had flipped an omelette for the first time, one girl had chopped her first onion and another said she and her partner had learnt it was easier to chop bacon with scissors than a knife.

Let's Get Cooking is using a £20 million Big Lottery Fund grant to set up a network of 5,000 cooking clubs across England, for children, their families and the wider community. Full clubs receive funding for cooking equipment and club running costs, training for adult helpers and a range of resources. The resources include a start-up pack for each club, wall charts, food safety advice, child-friendly versions of recipes, a termly activity and newsletter, and much more. All clubs have their own club page on the website and have access to downloadable resources and advice.

Regional Let's Get Cooking coordinators and training officers provide support and can put clubs in touch with local volunteers for extra help with routine jobs such as shopping or helping with special events. Each club must follow the Let's Get Cooking guidelines and obtain the support of a headteacher, who signs the agreement. They complete a very brief online report for each club session they run - the mission is to get people cooking, not form-filling.

■ MAKING MUFFINS: Adding bacon and leeks for flavour

■ CAREFULLY DOES IT: Learning to slice hot potatoes

■ THE PROOF IS IN THE EATING: Aaron Driver and Let's get Cooking co ordinator Zoe Dennis with the budding chefs of Hambridge

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Grease is the word!

A LARGE cast and crew at Holyrood Academy are working hard during rehearsals for a performance of the popular musical Grease, which they will be presenting in March.

Drama teacher Jenny Edmondson said there was so much talent and enthusiasm for the lead roles that she decided to cast more than one, to give everyone a chance.

Lead man Danny Zuko, made famous by John Travolta on the big screen, will be played by 16-year-old Ryan Deag, who is no stranger to the stage having performed both at the Octagon in Yeovil and the Brewhouse in Taunton. He has also auditioned for Billy Elliott and will be auditioning for the National Youth Theatre.

Rebecca Hardy and Katie Read will share the lead role of Sandy Dumbrowski. Katie said she has always loved the musical and her favourite song was Hopelessly Devoted. Rizzo will be jointly played by Carlie Broome and Lil Patuck and Kenickie will be Joe Crabb and Tom Davison. Teen Angel will be Joe Spurway and Sam Pullen and Mrs Lynch Elissa Stevens and Geogia Caird.

The other lead roles will be Frenchie - Jemima Farey; Marty - Meg Lawrence; Jan - Beth Stapleforth; Sonny - Taigo Martin; Doody - Nathan Smith; Patty - Emma Barton, Vince Fontaine - Jack Barge; and Cha Cha - Amy Stainton.

The school version of the show is toned down from the original story which tackled issues of teenage gang violence and sex in 1950s America and is much more of a romp with the emphasis on the musical numbers.

The basic story set in Rydell High School is intact, about the love between a "nice" girl and a "bad" boy, with the well-known songs such as The One That I want and Grease Lightning. There are some real characters and great numbers with colourful costumes made by the students and a great deal of energy in the choreography.

Grease promises to be an explosive show that will certainly keep you up in your seats and no doubt singing along.

The shows takes place on Tuesday, March 1st, Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the school at £5 and £3 concessions call 01460 260100.

■ COOL GANG: The T Birds

■ PINK LADIES: Katie Read, the Tuesday Sandy (centre) with Pink Ladies Beth Stapleforth, Jemima Farey, Lil Pattock and Meg Lawrence

■ TOP SHOW AT HOLYROOD: The cast of Grease in rehearsal

■ BEAUTY SCHOOL DROP OUT: The beauty girls chorus

Photos by MARION DRAPER

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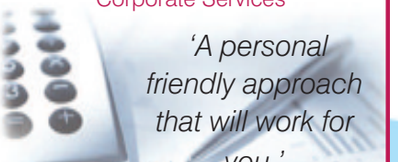

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RETIRED schoolmaster Norman Powell enjoys continuing to support students at his old school, as a member of the Rotary Club of Crewkerne. Born in the Forest of Deane, he came to Crewkerne in 1953 as a teacher at the grammar school which later became Wadham Community School.

He left school himself in 1944 to do his service in the Navy. On returning, Norman followed the footsteps of his own master who taught physics and hockey. He had to spend an extra year studying at Bristol University to gain his higher maths as there had been a shortage of maths teachers during the war, the law was you had to do a year's practical, so he was 27 by the time he became a qualified teacher. Norman played for the university hockey team during his last two years and later he became the chairman of the Men's Athletic Union and played hockey for the west of England.

● WHAT brought you to teach in Crewkerne?
A friend at university had done his training at Crewkerne Grammar School and told me they were known for hockey and rugby - when I saw the advert I remembered that. I sat with the chair of governors from 12-12.30 and he said if you'll have us we'll have you.

● WHAT did you like most about teaching?
Being able to give time to young people. It is not a nine to four job, I don't think anyone should be a teacher that is not prepared to spend time outside of the classroom. When it was a grammar school, I was a non-resident boarding master and inside the classroom you taught the subject and outside the classroom they got to know you as a human being, and you got to know them.

● WHAT has been the biggest change at the school over the years?
I think the building of the sports centre, the work done on that and the equipment gave a lot more opportunities for different types of sport. You could even play a type of hockey indoors. Also the loss of the house system, that was a good system as it mixed the years together and we would have inter-house competitions in everything, from debating to sport. Now it is all based on year groups.

● DO you think hockey is too overlooked as a sport?
Yes I think footballers get far too much attention, hockey just isn't played enough in schools. It has basically been done in grammar schools and independent schools, it stopped at Wadham after I left. We used to have mixed matches with the boys and girls as well as the staff and we would challenge the parents, it was great fun for everyone.

● WHAT did you love about hockey, and what position did you play?
I was centre half. I loved team games rather than individual sport and it's a very different game whether you play on grass or the all -weather pitches that came in. I preferred playing on grass. It has changed a lot over the years, the rules are completely different now, I don't know if I could ref a match anymore.

● WHEN did you retire from teaching?
I left Wadham in 1989 but I did supply teaching until I was 65, my life was school. When I gave up hockey at 45, they asked me to be on the county selection committee but I didn't want to, I was too involved in school. My wife Mollie and I used to take 25 kids camping, she used to take them for their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We would go to the Pyrenees in the summer and in May we had the Wessex walks with 200 children walking to Wells Cathedral.

● WHAT made you become a Rotarian?
I joined because they do quite a bit with the school and I still live only 13 minutes' walk away. We have Youth Speaks, the technology tournament and other activities connected with the school.

● HOW do you stay fit these days?
We love walking and in summer we swim in the sea. We go to Cornwall a lot for walking in the winter and swimming in the summer. We live at Broadshard and have a policy always to walk into Crewkerne unless we go to the dump with some rubbish or Molly has too much shopping to carry back. She goes in most days to shop. If we couldn't walk it would be a huge loss to us.

● WHAT would you say to others heading for retirement?
I am a big believer at my age, that if you do something physical, do it every day. Don't stop, because it is a lot harder to get back into it.

● WHO was your biggest influence growing up?
My father and mother; my father was very Victorian and strict, he knocked us down and mother picked us up. We were a very close family and we would go walking together. He was very keen on gardening and would enter the Three Counties Show with his vegetables. I always remember the parsnips which would grow three feet into the ground and we had to polish them with milk diluted in water to make them whiter.

● DO you like gardening too?
Yes I am a vegetable man, not flowers. When I was at school we had acres of land and had to 'Dig for Victory' and were each given a plot to look after.

Now we try to grow our own vegetables and love beetroot and parsnips but last year when I came to dig my beetroot, out of well over 100, all but five had been eaten.

● WHAT would you have to have on your desert island?
A hockey stick and balls, a good geographical book showing the beauty of the country, and an umbrella to stop the sun being too strong.

I have always loved the sun and getting brown but in recent years I have had a few problems and I have to watch it these days.

weekenderpeople

Looking good on the dance floor

By Marion Draper

EXERCISE has long been recognised as the key to staying active in retirement and the Tuesday Tea Dance group in Ilminster are living proof, as the members glide around the floor.

Having celebrated its 21st anniversary last year, the club has proven the test of time and boasts a committee that still has mostly original members; showing they are also a club of friendship.

Stronger than ever, the Tuesday tea dancers now number around 90 paid up members, with an average of 60 attending every week from 2-4.30pm coming as far as Yeovil, Bishopswood and Chard.

Started by the council at the old community hall in Shudrick lane, which was recently demolished for the long stay car park, the popularity of the dances caused the council to ask them to set up their own committee after only a month.

The hall was not really suitable as the group grew, there were pillars holding up the roof that had to be danced around and when they heard the Parish Hall was up for sale, they set to fundraising to help with its purchase thanks to their late treasurer Frank Perry.

They also paid for most of the tables and chairs at the hall.

Original member Ena Wyatt, who will be 90 in April said: "We were dancing while the carpenters were still banging away out the front.

"We held jumble sales and I went down the Market Square every weekend selling anything I could.

"Once the hall was ready we had an opening night, it was beautiful.

"I have met so many people I never would have met and they are all my friends. And dancing keeps you fit."

Friends, Doris Appleton, Dink Woodland and Doreen French all agreed and said dancing had kept them active in many ways and they liked having a reason to dress up a little and wear nice shoes.

The club enjoy mostly modern sequence dancing but also a little ballroom, some do not dance at all but like to watch the others and share the companionship.

They stop for tea and a draw halfway through and on special occasions have a buffet.

They have raised money for St Margaret's Hospice as well as for hall funds.

For their Christmas party they were dancing until midnight putting many a youngster to shame.

In June they start having outings and usually go to the Royal Hotel in Weymouth and the Exmouth Pavilion.

There is fun and laughter in Ilminster Parish Hall on Tuesday afternoons and the friendly club will always welcome newcomers.

They leave their worries at the doorstep and once the music takes them the members forget any stiffness apparent when walking as up on their toes they dance, on what visitors have described as the best floor in Somerset.

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Liam, winner of the Delta Plumbing Services Prize for Most Improved Second Year Plumbing Apprentice at this year's Apprenticeship Awards at Kingston Maurward College is in full support of apprenticeships.

He said: "There is always a need for plumbers, and I like helping people by getting things to work. There's nothing more satisfying than getting someone's heating or hot water back on for them."

Nineteen year old Liam is in the second year of his Level 2 NVQ Apprenticeship, and has aspirations to run his own company when he has gained enough experience.

Plumbing apprentices study taps, radiators, airing cupboards and full bathroom installations at college, with thirteen module tests to be completed during the Apprenticeship. Students are also assessed on health & safety, sheet lead and sanitation during the course, with on-site assessment at customers' houses.

Liam's tutor Dan Woods said: "Liam always works hard and has excellent pass rates. He's a great example to the others too."

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Knit and natterers

FIVE residents of Bishop Court Retirement Living Scheme, in Chard, recently set up their own knit and natter club and are donating blankets to Sunnymeade Nursing Home.

The ladies can often been seen in the communal lounge sharing a nice "cuppa", with knitting needles in hand catching up on the latest news while creating their warming contributions.

The crafty Yarlington Housing Group residents have now set their sights on making baby clothes for the premature baby clinic.

Junior triathlon

THE POPULAR Crewkerne junior triathlon may not happen this year if a new committee cannot be found.

Previous organisers, Mark and Maxine Field have had to step down from the task and although the adult triathlon will go ahead under a new team, so far there is no one to organise the juniors.

Eileen Mills from Prelude Sport has helped out in previous years and is co-ordinating the search for the right people. She said: "I would like to see it continue, but without a committee and sponsorship it would have to stop. There are not a lot of hours involved ,we need a couple of meetings to begin with then probably two or three more along the way. The triathlon is usually on the first Sunday in July."

Anyone interested in being involved can contact Eileen at the shop in Market Street on 01460 78529.

Finding out what polo is about

By Marion Draper

A TEENAGER from South Petherton wants others to experience the adrenaline rush he gets from the fastest ball game in the world.

Tom Vaux from Wigborough is 15 and spends his free time playing polo at Vaux Park Polo Club and recently returned from a bursary trip to train in South Africa.

Tom, who went to Chard School and now attends Taunton School, said his schoolfriends teased him about it being a posh sport, so he held a birthday party at the club two years ago and they all got to play bicycle polo with shorter sticks. At the end he said his friends were all buzzing and wanted more.

Now the school is looking into including it on their curriculum.

Tom admitted that he had grown up with horse riding, having sat on his first horse before he was two, but polo is a whole new way of riding. The ponies have to be small because they turn very quickly. His uncle started the club a few years ago.

Tom said: "It's a great sport and very physical, it is a full contact sport, a combination of rugby and hockey on horseback. You can hit the other person's stick but as long as you are next to them and going at the same speed you can push them.

"When I am not at school I play three or four times a week plus weekend matches. I prefer indoor polo which is played with a football type ball in an arena which means there is a lot more turning.

"In May the grass season starts which is a completely different game with a lot more hitting, the pitch is about three times the size and the horses can get up to 40pmh.

"While I was in South Africa, for a week or so I was playing four or five hours a day and I learnt a lot. The biggest problem is getting the right horse, the best are from Argentina; they have to stop fast and be quick on the turn.

"If you get good at the sport there is a lot of money to be made in it but it is the adrenaline that I really like, and it keeps you fit because you have to have a lot of core strength for all the twisting, you steer the horse with your body."

The sport is not just for the boys and 23 year old Heloise Lorentzen is now coaching as well as playing at the club.

She said there are ladies only games but also mixed games, although the men do tend to dominate at the higher levels of the sport purely due to strength.

She said: "I have been playing since I was 14 and I agree with Tom, it is the adrenaline rush and the competitiveness. The majority of players can be really hard on the pitch but what happens on the pitch stays on the pitch and we are all really good friends afterwards. It is the fastest contact sport in the world and we would like to see it in the Olympics

"The majority of us do it on a budget, it becomes a lifestyle. It is becoming more fashionable as people realise what fun it can be and lot more girls are doing it now."

Many local people are still unaware that the club exists and it is welcoming schools to go along and find out what polo is all about.

Spokesperson Cheryl Brown said: "We are trying to encourage more families to come along, polo has the reputation that it is only for the rich and famous but we give discounts to schools and colleges and help with finding sponsorship for teams. Plymouth University students come here for lessons and they aren't rich people. It's also great for corporate weekends and team building.

"It is suitable for eight years olds upwards, and they can try bicycle polo first to get to know the game and just have fun. A lot of local people don't even know we are here."

■ POLO IS A BUZZ: Tom Vaux, 15 (above) and enjoying the turns on the field (left in photo).

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Meet the FSB Rentals team

FSB Rentals, the lettings department of Fortnam Smith and Banwell, , is delighted with its expansion over the last few months and is proud to manage more property for more clients than ever before.

The dedicated and highly efficient team is now headed up by manager, Sue Wallis. Previously a business owner/ manager and holiday lettings agent, Sue was introduced to Fortnam Smith and Banwell when she became a bank cashier at the Halifax branch in the FSB office. After redundancy in 2006, Sue accepted an invitation to join the FSB family and four years later, is thrilled with her promotion, from senior negotiator to rentals manager.

Senior negotiator, Louisa Merritt joined FSB Rentals in March 2010. Louisa worked in sales for three years then took a break to have children and more recently, owned a local retail business in the town. Having lived in Seaton all her life, Louisa has an excellent knowledge of the town and its properties and is working towards achieving the Technical Award in Residential Letting and Property Management qualification.

The newest member of the FSB Rentals team is negotiator, Lin Walkerdine, who joined in August 2010. A qualified company secretary, Lin has been a project manager for one of the largest housebuilders in the country and has experience in contract negotiation and property law as well as property rentals. Lin applied for a position with Fortnam Smith and Banwell as her family has bought and sold properties via the agency and its approach was always professional, friendly and helpful.

Lin's favourite part of the job is matching tenants with properties and seeing them enjoy their new homes, while Louisa particularly enjoys the day to day contact with people and thrives on the challenges that arise on a daily basis.

Sue said: "Lin, Louisa and I work extremely well as a team, offering help and support to each other in this very demanding job. We provide the best possible service with a rolling selection of properties for tenants and a choice of packages for our landlords, from a find-only level to a fully managed service with everything taken care of. The job can be challenging at times, but it is all worth it for the best part, which is seeing people settled and happy in their new homes."

FSB Rentals is the lettings department of Fortnam Smith and Banwell, which provides a comprehensive range of services, now including the brand new Home Passport, designed to help sell homes quicker.

For further information, to view a property for sale or to rent or to arrange a free, no-obligation market appraisal for the sale or rental of your property, pop into the Fortnam Smith and Banwell office at Seaton's town centre, call FSB Rentals on 01297 21120, sales on 01297 23939 or visit www.teamprop.co.uk.

Left to Right: Louisa Merritt, Sue Wallis and Lin Walkerdine in the FSB Rentals office

Elder&Froy

Crewkerne T: 01460 78900
crewkerne@elderfroy.co.uk

Poundbury T: 01305 269200
poundbury@elderfroy.co.uk

NEW BRANCH
Ilminster T: 01460 259699
ilminster@elderfroy.co.uk

Dorchester T: 01305 250777
dorchester@elderfroy.co.uk

Beaminster T: 01308 862606
beaminster@elderfroy.co.uk

MERRIOTT £99 950
SPACIOUS GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
Entrance Hall – Sitting Room – Kitchen
Bedroom – Bathroom - Off Road
Parking – Communal Cellar
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £119 950
APARTMENT CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
First Floor - Sitting/Dining Room With Balcony
Kitchen – Two Bedrooms - Shower Room
Communal Gardens – Garage - Parking
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CHARD £125 000
MODERNISED SPACIOUS TERRACE
Hall – Sitting/Dining Room – Kitchen/Breakfast Room
Utility Room - Landing/Study – Two Bedrooms
Bathroom – Rear Garden
Ilminster Office 01460 259699

CREWKERNE £129 950
APARTMENT CLOSE TO TOWN
Sitting Room – Garden Room/Dining Room – Kitchen
Utility Room - Two Bedrooms – Bathroom
Cloakroom – Walled Courtyard Garden
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

ILMINSTER £129 950
THREE BEDROOM FAMILY HOME
Hall – Cloakroom - Kitchen/Breakfast Room – Utility
Three Double Bedrooms - Sitting Room – Shower Room - Front and Rear Gardens with Views
Ilminster Office 01460 259699

DUE TO A SUCESSFUL JANUARY WE NOW REQUIRE MORE PROPERTIES FOR SALE AND TO RENT

PLEASE CALL YOUR NEAREST OFFICE FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION VALUATION

CREWKERNE £134 950
STUNNING APPARTMENT
Sitting/Dining Room – Kitchen – Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room – Further Bedroom – Bathroom
Two Parking Spaces – Communal Gardens
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

MERRIOTT £140 000
MODERN FAMILY HOME
Entrance Hall – Sitting Room – Kitchen/Dining Room – Conservatory - Three Bedrooms - Bathroom
Front and Rear Gardens - Unrestricted Parking
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £139 950
TOWN HOUSE WITH GARAGE
Entrance Hall – Sitting Room – Dining Room
Kitchen – Rear Lobby - Two Bedrooms
Shower Room – 75ft Rear Garden – Garage
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £142 500
GREAT FAMILY HOUSE
Entrance Hall – Sitting Room – Kitchen – Utility/Store Room – Three Bedrooms – Bathroom – Off-Road Parking – Front and Rear Gardens – Viewing Advised
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

ILMINSTER £450 PCM
FIRST FLOOR FLAT
Sitting Room - Kitchen - Two Bedrooms - Bathroom
Garage Available at an Additional £50 pcm If Required - Town Centre Location - Unfurnished
Ilminster Office 01460 259699

MERRIOTT £450 pcm
QUIET VILLAGE COTTAGE
Sitting Room – Dining Area - Kitchen
Bedroom - Bathroom
Front Garden – Unfurnished
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

SOUTH PETHERTON £525 pcm
ATTRACTIVE COTTAGE
Sitting room - Kitchen - Two Bedrooms
Bathroom - Courtyard
Brick Store - Unfurnished
Ilminster Office 01460 259699

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beaminster@elderfroy.co.uk

MERRIOTT £165 000
DOUBLE FRONTED CHARACTER COTTAGE
Sitting Room with Inglenook Fireplace – Dining Area
Kitchen – Two Bedrooms – Bathroom – South Facing
Private - Front Garden - Rear Courtyard
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

MERRIOTT £169 950
EXTENDED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
Hall - Two Receptions - Kitchen - Three Bedrooms
Bathroom - Seperate WC - Gas Heating
Off Road Parking - Gardens
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £175 000
SPACIOUS DOUBLE FRONTED COTTAGE
Sitting Room – Dining Room - Kitchen - Two Double
Bedrooms – Bathroom - Walled Courtyard Garden
Gas CH – Double Glazing – No Onward Chain
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP £179 950
CHARMING CHARACTER COTTAGE
Storm Porch – Sitting Room – Kitchen/Breakfast
Room – Family Bathroom - Master Bedroom with
En-Suite – Two Further Bedrooms – Rear Garden
Ilminster Office 01460 259699

CREWKERNE £179 950
TUCKED AWAY HAMSTONE HOUSE
Entrance Hall – Sitting Room – Dining Room
Kitchen – Cloakroom - Three Bedrooms – Bathroom
Two Parking Spaces – Enclosed Rear Garden
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

MISTERTON £185 000
MODERNISED VILLAGE HOME
Porch – Entrance Lobby – Sitting Room – Kitchen
Bathroom – Master Bedroom with En-Suite
Two Further Bedrooms - Large Rear Garden
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £192 500
WELL PRESENTED FAMILY HOME
Entrance Lobby – Sitting Room – Dining Room
Kitchen – Three Bedrooms - Family Bathroom - Front
Garden – Large Rear Garden Garage
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £239 950
DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS TOWN HOUSE
Sitting Room - Dining Room - Conservatory - Kitchen
Utility - Cloakroom - Three Bedrooms - Bathroom
Lovely Walled Rear Garden – 40ft Garage
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £275 000
SPACIOUS HOME WITH LARGE GARDEN
SALE AGREED WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK SIMILAR
PROPERTIES REQUIRED
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £250 000
SPACIOUS DETACHED HOME
Sitting Room - Dining Room - Kitchen - Cloakroom
Four Bedrooms - Master En-Suite - Family Bathroom
Garden - Parking - Garage - Remaining NHBC
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

MISTERTON £289 950
SPACIOUS MODERN DETACHED HOUSE
Entrance Hall – Sitting Room – Dining Room
Kitchen - Cloakroom – Four Bedrooms – Bathroom
Front and Rear Gardens – Driveway and Garage
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £199 950
SPACIOUS FAMILY HOUSE
Sitting Room – Conservatory - Kitchen – Lobby
Utility Room – Cloakroom - Four Bedrooms – Bath-
room – Parking – Garage – Front and Rear Gardens
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £425 PCM
WELL PRESENTED TOWN COTTAGE
Sitting Room - Kitchen - Bedroom
Bathroom – Attic Room – Small Courtyard
Unfurnished - Available Now
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £495 PCM
MID TERRACE TOWN COTTAGE
Sitting Room - Kitchen
Two Bedrooms – Shower Room – Courtyard Garden
Unfurnished - Available Now
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

CREWKERNE £475 PCM
SPACIOUS GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
Sitting Room - Kitchen - Two Bedrooms - En-Suite
Shower – Bathroom - Unfurnished - Available now
Crewkerne Office 01460 78900

MISTERTON £370 000
DETACHED BUNGALOW IN 1.25 ACRES
Sitting Room - Dining Room/Bedroom Three
Conservatory - Kitchen - Ywo Double Bedrooms
Driveway - Dble Garage - Workshop -Two Paddocks
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WEST DORSET - O I E O £405,000

- Detached 5 bedroom property
- Situated in sought after village
- Excellent order throughout
- Integral garage and gardens

CREWKERNE - £375,000

- Superior detached 4 bedroom house
- Superb 180 degree views over surrounding countryside
- Luxury fitted kitchen in 2010
- Double garage with large office over

CREWKERNE - £375,000

- Very spacious detached 4 bedroom house
- Self contained one bedroom annex
- Large gardens to front, side and rear
- Detached double garage and workshop/store

WEST CHINNOCK - £349,950

- Spacious det 3 bedroom, 2 reception bungalow
- Situated in heart of popular South Somerset village
- Well maintained with oil CH and double glazing
- Gardens on three sides with views over farmland

MOSTERTON - £325,000

- Spacious detached three bedroom bungalow
- Excellent decorative order throughout
- Oil fired central heating & double glazing
- Garage and good sized gardens

HASELBURY PLUCKNETT - £259,950

- Spacious detached 3 bedroom bungalow
- Cul de sac location in popular village
- Recently fitted kitchen and shower room
- Driveway parking, garage, front and rear gardens

MISTERTON - £195,000

- Modern semi detached 2 bedroom bungalow
- Recently fitted new kitchen and wet room
- Gas fired CH, double glazing & cavity wall insulation
- Integral garage and front, side and rear gardens

CREWKERNE - £175,000

- Spacious & well maintained 3 bedroom semi det house
- Popular residential cul de sac location
- Gas CH, double glazing, garage and gardens
- An ideal family home

CREWKERNE - £149,950

- Spacious 3 bedroom semi detached house
- Well maintained accommodation
- Gas central heating with radiators
- Front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking

CREWKERNE - £125,000

- Self contained second floor 2 bedroom flat
- Close to all amenities
- Well maintained with night storage heating & dble glazing
- Communal gardens and allocated car parking space

CREWKERNE - £95,000

- Spacious 1 bedroom terrace cottage
- Pleasant cul de sac location towards western edge of town
- Well maintained and good decorative order
- Courtyard to rear – ideal first home

CREWKERNE - £95,000

- Self contained first floor one bedroom flat
- Retirement complex with Careline system
- Redecorated and recarpeted throughout
- Communal gardens and visitor parking

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weekenderlife

Panto reaches new heights

MEMBERS of Cloverleaf Productions are no strangers to panto, the society having entertained audiences for over 25 years. However, this year they are hoping to take their performance to a new height when they stage Jack & the Beanstalk.

Working on the tiny stage at Combe St. Nicholas Village Hall is never easy, but it will be made especially tricky this year by the presence of a giant, an enormous growing beanstalk, a castle in the clouds and a cow!

This production has all the elements that you expect from a traditional pantomime including a handsome hero, a beautiful Princess, an hilarious dame, a silly oaf, a thoroughly bad lot, a comedy duo, good and bad fairies, an adorable furry animal, a King and Queen and a rather camp equerry. These principal performers are backed by a strong chorus and some delightful cameo performances by Natalie Wilsher.

Jack & the Beanstalk will be staged at Combe St. Nicholas Village Hall from Tuesday, February 15th to Friday 18th February at 7.30pm nightly and on Saturday 19th at 2.30pm and 6.30pm. Tickets (£6 adults, £4 children) are on sale in Combe St. Nicholas from Combe Post Office or via The Village Shop.

The cast of Jack & the Beanstalk try on some of their costumes for the first time

LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT MUSIC GIGS…

YEOVIL College's Music students will be performing their annual Valentine's and Decades gigs on Monday 14th and Tuesday, February 15th.

On Valentine's Day, second year students will perform a selection of new songs at the Barn. The acts include *The Navigators* (Sam Askill, Ashley Poulton and Mark Tucker, *Valiant Effort* (George Belben and Henry Aldred) and singer-songwriter *Sophie Hosken-Taylor*, who recently performed at the Yeovil College Further Education Awards. Doors open at 7.30 pm and entry costs just £2.

The Decades gig features first year students performing covers of popular songs from every decade from 1950 to the 2010. The four main bands performing are *Mercury* (Stephen Holton, Christina Woody, Jack Sandrey, Mark Stent and Adam Switzer, *The Platform Drivers* (Andy Poulton, Danny Williams, Luke Osborne and Pete Keys), *Alien Flight Plan* (Morgan Grubb, Ross Derby, Sam Francis, Maddie Faulkner and Callum Wood), and *Winter Screams* (Larry Turner, Darcy Whyman, Callum Shortland and Ashley Jones).

The Decades gig starts at 7.00 pm at the Barn and tickets cost £2. Refreshments will be available at this event.

The Valentine's Gig is on Monday, February 14th and the Decades Gig is on Tuesday, February 15th. Both events start at 7.30 pm and will take place in the Barn at Yeovil College.

See the Forde Abbey Snowdrops in February

SNOWDROPS have been grown in the gardens of England's monasteries ever since the 15th Century, when it is thought that monks brought snowdrops to this country from Italy. Forde Abbey is no exception and the gardens of this 850 year old former Cistercian monastery are home to several well known varieties.

Natural propagation, together with a policy of thinning and transplanting has encouraged widespread growth of these delicate flowers throughout the Abbey's grounds.

Snowdrops can be found here during the whole of February, together with wonderful displays of Cyclamen, naturalised Widow Iris and even early Crocuses.

Gardens open daily 10am-4pm. Entry for the gardens until Sunday, March 13th is only £5. From March 1st the Gift Shop, Undercroft Tearoom and plant nursery will be open for the season, daily, 11am-4.30pm.

Don't miss Forde Abbey's Plant and Gardening Fair on Sunday, March 6th. Entry to this event, together with the tearoom, shop and nursery is free. The Plant Fair takes place during Crocus Week, which runs from March 5th-13th.

For further details visit www.fordeabbey.co.uk

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CROCUS WEEK 5th-13th March
Entry to gardens £5
PLANT & GARDENING FAIR
6th March 10am-4pm
Free entry to fair, tearoom, gift shop, kitchen garden & plant centre

01460 221290 www.fordeabbey.co.uk
4 miles SE of Chard

ILMINSTER
arts centre
AT THE MEETING HOUSE
THE BLANCHET TRIO
Friday 11th February at 7.30pm
Tickets £12
Concerts in the West present an evening of French and German Baroque. The Blanchet Trio perform music by Marias, Rameau and Leclair and Sonatas by Buxtehude, Biber and JS Bach.
JERRY DONAHUE AND
THE ELECTRIC REVELATORS
Saturday 19th February at 8.00pm
Tickets £12.00
Jerry Donahue, regarded as one of the greatest guitar players in the world, and The Electric Revelators, Gordon Wride and Simon Gregory, will be performing the songs of Robert Johnson (the king of the delta blues) in celebration of his birth 100 years ago in 1911. The trio has appeared at many major blues festivals around the UK and Europe.
Booking details: 01460 54973
www.themeetinghouse.org.uk
info@themeetinghouse.org.uk
East Street, Ilminster, Somerset. TA19 0AN.
Open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30, Sat 10.00-2.30.

Food *with Richard Coles*

email: rgcoles@me.com

I MUST admit, the contents of today's lunch box looks divine. For while I'm downstairs in my office typing this at the meagre hour of 9am, my mind and stomach - both conscious of the need to remain together and, more importantly, the great taste that will come their way at a later hour - are both already thinking about taking the lid off that lunchbox to reveal the fantastic sunflower bread from Martock's superb Bakery Royal and the jewel in the crown - Kingsbury Episcopi Honeycomb.

The benefits of local honey are far reaching, and broadly fall into four categories: taste, health, wildlife and localism. Surely the first of these is by far the most important, for if food is 'good' for you, the planet and the farmer but tastes disgusting then all other points will have evaporated. Food, surely, is first and foremost to be enjoyed. From there other benefits can flow.

Yet I digress, for honey is surely delicious. To be fair, I do love any honey from any place, but not all are made equal. Many mainstream supermarket offerings are combinations of honey from multiple sources, blended to give a brand consistency. There is nothing wrong with this in itself, of course, and it can make for a healthy, tasty offering. But it can (not always, but can) invalidate the local and environmental aspects of our tick-list. After all, if honey is imported for Brazil (some are) then we might realistically ask whether that is the greenest option.

But local honey - which you should have no trouble finding if you keep you eyes and ears open whilst travelling through farm shops, country lanes with houses offering jars for sale outside, or trading co-operatives - is a whole different product in this respect. The national press has made no secret of the problem of the declining British bee population in recent years and one very proactive way to help to reverse that trend is to buy local. Local, obviously, means British, which calls for active bee keepers, whom can steward this vital aspect to our eco-system. No international transportation: rather, an encouragement of pollination for local apple trees, flowers, crops and the like via these wonderful carriers of pollen.

So local honey is certainly delicious, certainly environmentally friendly - no, proactively useful - and obviously helpful to the local economy. You might think local honey is expensive, but when you consider the volume produced, the margins concerned, the wide reaching benefits and the premium quality of the product you might want to reconsider. Think of local honeys like good wines: in my opinion they have terroir, and each one is the be savoured and enjoyed for - unlike consistent supermarket staples - their subtleties and differences.

This leaves just one more point: health. I shall resist saying too much about this, for if you Google the health benefits of honey you will find a whole hive of claims! Surely some will be true, surely. In fact, a good many, but these can be summed up in the knowledge that this a naturally occurring, unrefined product - unlikely the white sugar that might find its way into our tea. Whatever the benefit to your body, local honey will certainly benefit your local producers, suppliers, orchard and bread. Why not pick up another pot today?

The Howley Tavern
HOWLEY, NEAR CHARD, SOMERSET
TEL: (01460) 62157
Valentine's Menu
STARTERS
Prawn Cocktail / Chicken Liver Pate / Soup of the Day / Creamy Garlic Mushrooms
All the above served with crusty rolls & butter
MAIN COURSE
8oz Rump Steak
Cooked to your liking & served with chips, onion rings, mushrooms & peas
Plaice Fillet
Oven Cooked & topped with a Mango & Drambuie sauce
& served with new potatoes & fresh seasonal vegetables
Steak & Ale Pie
Served with new potatoes & selection of fresh seasonal vegetable
Lemon Chicken or Minted Lamb Cutlets
On a bed of roasted vegetables & served with new potatoes
& fresh seasonal vegetables
SWEETS
Select from our sweets, ice creams, sorbets or cheese board
All of which are on our daily specials board
Followed by Coffee & Mint
£18.95

weekenderlife

weekenderlife DIARY DATES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

CLAPTON: Take Art! Pentabus Theatre: 'Tales of The Country'. Interval buffet and bar. At Clapton Village Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets including interval buffet cost £9 for adults, £5 children 12-18, or £23 family (2+2). Telephone 01460 74849 / 77062 for more details.

ILMINSTER: The Blanchet Trio at Ilminster Arts Centre, East Street from 7.30pm

CLAPTON: Luncheon Club - all welcome, but please book. At the Village Hall from midday for 12.30pm start. Telephone 01460 77057 to book or for details.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

DRIMPTON: Clapton, Wayford & District Horticultural Socey's annual Potato Day (+ Onions, seeds, plants etc. Brunches and children's activities.) At Drimpton Village Hall from 10.30am - 3.30pm. Telephone 01308 868843 for more details.

MISTERTON: Misterton Tennis Club Wine and Wisdom fundraising event at Misterton Village Hall, Unity Lane from 8pm. Teams of up to 6 people, costing £5 per person which includes a ploughman's supper. Telephone 01460 74368 for more details.

MARTOCK: Producer's Market from 10am - 1pm in the shopping precinct. St Valentine's special.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH

CHARD: Screen at the Guildhall present film 'The Illusionist'. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm. At the Guildhall. Telephone 07941 585823 or 01460 260051 for more details.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

CREWKERNE: Crewkerne and District Astronomical Society with Darren Baskill: X-Treme Astronomy, at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Abbey Street from 7.30pm.

CHARD: Chard Helmstedt Twinners pub lunch at Windwhistle Golf Club. 12 for 12.30pm, members and visitors welcome. Telephone 01460 62449 or 68398 for more details.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17TH

DRIMPTON: Line Dancing at Village Hall. 7.30-9.15pm. Telephone 01460 65728 for more details.

SEAVINGTON ST MARY: English Wildlife - spring and summer by Davisd Kjaer. At the Millennium Hall from 7.30pm. £2.50 for members, £3.50 non members including refreshments.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18TH

TATWORTH: Film: 'Made In Dagenham' screened by T&F Movies at Tatworth Memorial Hall. Doors open 7.30pm, starts 8pm. Telephone 01460 20198 for more details.

ASHILL: Elvis Night with the amazing Barry Paull organised by the Rosie Crane Trust. At The Barn @ Square & Compass, Windmill Hill from 7.30pm - 11.30pm. Tickets £7.50 in advance or £10 on the door, available by calling 01460 55120 or visiting Horton Post Office. Also a raffle, and food can be purchased separately.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

CREWKERNE: Table Top Sale from 9am - 12.30pm (sellers 8.30am). Raffle, all proceeds to Henhayes Centre. Visit www.henhayes.co.uk or call 01460 74340 for more details.

CREWKERNE: Peace Vigil at Victoria Hall from 11am - 12noon.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20TH

SOUTH PETHERTON: League of Friends of South Petherton Community Hospital 60th anniversary celebration concert in the Parish Church. Featuring the Bridgend Male Choir from 4pm. Tickets available from N&D News, South Petherton, Martock News, Martock Gallery or by calling 01460 240980. £8 in advance, £10 on the door.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22ND

MERRIOTT: A presentation by Mike Burks of Castle Gardens Group on growing fruit and vegetables on the patio, organised by Merriott Gardening Club. 7.30pm at The Tithe Barn, Church Street. Everyone welcome. For more details call 01460 72298.

ILMINSTER: Public meeting held by South Somerset Peache Group when Rebecca Tinsley will talk about 'Sacrificing Darfur'. At the Minster Room from 7.30pm. All welcome, entry £3 including tea/coffee.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23RD

TATWORTH: Talk on Somerset Waster at Tatworth Memorial Hall from 2.30pm. Telephone 01460 220339 or 220198 for more details.

FENOCCHI'S

RISTORANTE

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Come and enjoy our new Italian Dining experience at Cricket St Thomas Hotel in our contemporary restaurant that honours the finest traditions of Italian cooking with our Michelin-trained Chef Jason Eland.

Book now for Valentines Day

Open daily from 7.30pm – 9.30pm

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AA

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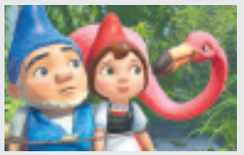
Going Out Film

This week's new releases

GNOMEO AND JULIET U

DISNEY'S latest animated offering comes in the form of Gnomeo and Juliet (available in 3D in certain cinemas).

Garden gnomes Gnomeo (voiced by James McAvoy) and Juliet (voicedby Emily Blunt) have as many obstacles to overcome as their quasi namesakes when they are caught up in a feud between neighbors. But with plastic pink flamingos and lawnmower races in the mix, can this young couple find lasting happiness?



The film include an incredible list of vocal talents including Michael Caine, Matt Lucas, Jason Statham, Ozzy Osborne, Patrick Stewart, Julie Walters and Hulk Hogan.

JUST GO WITH IT 12A

DANNY (Adam Sandler) is a successful plastic surgeon who pretends to be unhappily married to get women. When he finally meets a girl (Brooklyn Decker) he believes to be the woman of his dreams, he doesn't use his method on her, but she soon finds the wedding band he uses. Afraid of telling her the truth, he tells her he's getting a divorce, to which she requests to meet his soon-to-be ex. He asks his office manager Katherine (Jennifer Aniston) to pose as his wife in order to prove his story, but one lie turns into another that brings Katherine's children into his scheme, resulting in a trip to Hawaii that will change all their lives.

NEVER LET ME GO 12A

AS children, Ruth (Keira Knightley), Kathy (Carey Mulligan) and Tommy (Andrew Garfield), spend their childhood at a seemingly idyllic English boarding school. As they grow into young adults, they find that they have to come to terms with the strength of the love they feel for each other, while preparing themselves for the haunting reality that awaits them.

YOGI BEAR PG

CGI meets live action and 3D in this modern story of the iconic Yogi Bear.

Jellystone Park is celebrating its 100th anniversary, however it may be for the last time, because attendance is down and Mayor Brown wants to close the park and sell the land. If the park is closed, Yogi Bear (voiced by Dan Ayckroyd) and Boo Boo (voiced Justin Timberlake) will lose their home. They join forces with Ranger Smith to save Jellystone from closing forever. Yogi must really prove in this endeavor that he is "smarter than the average bear"

CINEMA LISTINGS

Friday, February 11th - Thursday, February 17th

ALL LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Heron Gate, Riverside

Tel: 0871 22 44 007

www.odeon.co.uk

A Little Bit Of Heaven 12A
Fri-Sun: 20.15
Black Swan 15
Fri-Tue: 20.30, Wed & Thu: 20.15
Diary Of A Wimpy Kid PG
Sat & Sun: 10.45
Gnomeo and Juliet *in 2D* U
Fri, Mon-Thu: 12.15
Gnomeo and Juliet *in 3D* U
Daily: 14.30, 16.45, 19.00, Plus Sat & Sun: 10.00, 12.15
Gulliver's Travels *in 3D* PG
Sat & Sun: 10.30
Just Go With It 12A
Daily: 13.15, 15.45, 18.45, 21.20
Megamind PG
Sat & Sun: 11.00
Never Let Me Go 12A
Fri-Sun, Wed & Thu: 12.45, 15.15, 17.45, 20.40
Mon: 12.45, 15.15, 20.40
Tue: 12.45, 17.45, 20.40
No Strings Attached 15
Mon: 21.10
Paul 15
Mon-Thu: 13.45, 16.00, 18.15, 20.30
Sanctum *in 3D* 15
Daily: 21.30
Tangled *in 2D* PG
Fri: 13.45, 18.15
Sat & Sun: 11.30, 13.45, 18.15
Tangled *in 3D* PG
Daily: 12.30, 14.45, 17.00, 19.15, Plus Sat & Sun: 10.15
The Fighter 15
Fri-Sun, Tue: 21.10
The King's Speech 12A
Daily: 12.00, 15.00, 17.30, 20.00
True Grit 15
Daily: 13.00, 15.30, 18.00, 20.50
Yogi Bear *in 2D* U
Fri-Sun: 16.00
Yogi Bear *in 3D* U
Daily: 14.00, 16.15, 18.30
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.45
Big Momma's: Like Father, Like Son U
Wed & Thu: 21.10

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Tel: 0871 200 2000

www.cineworld.co.uk

Tangled *in 3D* PG
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Sat & Sun: 12.10, 14.30, 16.45, 19.15
Mon: 14.30, 16.45
Tangled *in 2D* PG
Sat & Sun: 11.00, 13.15
The Fighter 15
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu: 13.10, 15.45, 18.30, 21.15
Mon: 21.15
Sanctum *in 3D* 15
Daily: 21.30
The King's Speech 12A
Daily: 14.45, 17.20, 20.00
Black Swan 15
Daily: 15.30, 18.00, 20.30
Plus Tue: 13.00
The Mechanic 15
Fri-Sun, Tue: 21.30
No Strings Attached 15
Mon: 20.15
Paul 15
Mon-Thu: 13.40, 16.10, 18.50, 20.40, 21.10
Ghost 12A
Mon: 13.00, 15.45, 18.15, 20.40
Met Opera Live: Nixon In China
Sat: 18.00
Gnomeo and Juliet *in 3D* U
Daily: 14.10, 16.20, 18.40
Plus Fri: 20.40
Plus Say & Sun: 114.45, 20.40
Just Go With It 12A
Daily: 13.00, 15.40, 18.20, 21.00
Never Let Me Go 12A
Daily: 12.50, 15.20, 17.40, 20.15
True Grit 15
Daily: 12.40, 15.15, 17.50, 20.45
Yogi Bear *in 3D* U
Daily: 13.45, 16.30, 19.00
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.15
Yogi Bear *in 2D* U
Sat & Sun: 10.30, 12.30, 15.00
Gnomeo and Juliet *in 2D* U
Sat & Sun: 10.45, 12.45
A Little Bit Of Heaven 12A
Fri: 14.30, 17.00, 19.45
Sun: 17.00, 19.45
Alpha and Omega *in 2D* U
Sat: 10.10
Diary Of A Wimpy Kid PG
Sat: 10.20
Marmaduke U Sat: 10.00
Big Momma's House: Like Father Like Son PG
Wed & Thu: 13.00, 15.30, 18.00

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www.scottcinemas.co.uk

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Black Swan 15
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Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky 15 Thu: 10.30am

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Every other Wednesday, next meeting 16th February
10:30 am to 12:30 noon
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Every Wednesday 7.30pm - 9.15pm
MEETING VOICES in the Town Hall
Song workshops for all "if you can speak you can sing"
Come and join us

Every Thursday 9.00am - 2.00pm
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Every Thursday from 24th February 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
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Saturday 12th February
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JANE and Tris opened Bilbys ten years ago this weekend, just two weeks before foot and mouth came to Somerset.

After finishing at Westminster College, Jane worked in some very good restaurants and hotels in London, including the Berkeley Hotel and Sally Clarkes in Kensington.

Tris was trained at Portsmouth Technical College, and then worked at the Savoy for a few months followed by eight years at Scott's Restaurant, before moving onto Pru Leith's restaurant in Notting Hill.

When they first met, even before they were going out together, Jane and Tris spent many evenings in wine bars discussing what type of restaurant they were going to have together. They got married 27 years ago - Jane made the wedding cake and Tris prepared the wedding buffet.

When they started a family they moved to Somerset, saying it was "probably the best move they ever made." Tris became the development chef at Oscar Mayer in Chard, before they moved to Bridgwater where he became head chef at The Old Vicarage. Following the time in Bridgwater, Tris became head chef at Cricket St Thomas, overseeing two restaurants, functions for up to 300 people, hog roasts, burger bars, picnics, private parties for four and even Mr Blobby's birthday cake.

In 1995 Tris and Jane bought their first restaurant together in Sherborne, and it was a great success from the minute it opened, thanks to the hard work of the couple and all the staff.

The principles they started with still apply today. Start with good food, serve it with a smile and charge a fair price.

Jane and Tris now habe two coffee shops, one in Crewkerne and one in Ilminster. The menus are very similar, lots of delicious hand made cakes, fresh soups, daily specials and all day breakfast using many locally sourced foods.

Jane and Tris said: "After ten years every one see us like a family friend - where you are welcomed into our home, have a chat, have a drink and something to eat, where everybody is welcome."

In the last ten years, as well as running the coffee shops, they have also cooked and catered for weddings, christening, birthdays, Christmas parties and Funerals, and they say they are always proud when asked to provide food or catering for any event.

Tris says: "the best thing about owning the coffee shop is the customers, how different and interesting they all are. The worst thing is the constant red tape!"

Jane added "All in all the last ten years have been the best ever, all thanks to the customers, staff and everybody else who has helped is - thank you all."

Open Monday to Saturday 9am - 4pm

Market Street, Crewkerne - *01460 72622*
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bilbys.pinkney@hotmail.co.uk

Bilbys

VALENTINE'S WEDDING FAYRE AT

IF you are planning your wedding and need expert help and advice (plus a great day out) then a visit to the Valentine's Wedding Fayre at The Fairwater Head Hotel is a must. Twenty five wedding suppliers will be there to help on Sunday 13th February between 1130 and 1600 showcasing their services – from beautiful dresses to handmade jewellery. The hotel will also be giving away goody bags to the first thirty visiting brides, running a raffle to win one of 4 great prizes with proceeds going to the local Air Ambulance, plus early arrivers will be treated to free sparkling wine and canapés. Admission is free.

Also as you walk around the elegant Edwardian hotel, which now has its own licence for civil weddings, you will be able listen to the serene sounds of harpist Seona Stockel while wedding singer Karen Bailey will add a special touch with some romantic songs.

Every wedding is special and unique and we are sure you will find the exhibitors at this exciting event have something to help you achieve the wedding day of your dreams.

ABC Wedding Dresses will have a wonderful selection of dresses modelled on the day

Beaminster Flowers will put their magic touch and expertise to a display of simply beautiful flowers.

Boldscan Marquees will tell you everything you need to know about marquees for your special day

Bolts Hair and Body offers the perfect wedding package for brides and bridal parties.

Bridge Cakecraft are specialist wedding cake designers with over 20 years experience

Canns / Frederick L Mabb are experts in formal hire for gentlemen with a wide selection of the best garments available for all special occasions.

Claire Sloane is a passionate wedding photographer who captures truly memorable pictures

Eat Sleep Cake create the perfect cake for the perfect day with style and imagination.

Emily's Chocolates of Sidmouth has over 60 handmade English and Belgian chocolates for table decorations or favour boxes.

Elfi Edwards produces wonderful wedding books where her creativity and imagination shine through.

Eclipse Entertainment has over 25 years experience offering a varied selection of acts and artistes

Furleigh Estate Vineyard produces delicious award winning sparkling wines from grapes grown in Dorset- the perfect wedding wine.

Hannah James Photography specialise in combining the best of both traditional and modern photography to produce perfect wedding pictures

Louise Walrond creates handmade jewellery to make you feel and look beautiful on your wedding day.

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Fairwater Head Hotel

Sunday, February 13th 2011 - 11.30 to 4pm

Otter Valley Videos are an award winning company offering wedding filming in an unobtrusive style

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Silk Stocking Lingerie in Sidmouth supply beautiful bras, lingerie and swimwear for the pretty petite to the beautiful larger bride.

Sarah Case is a mobile hair and make-up artist with vast experience and covers the South West for brides and their party.

Tiaras and Feathers – Margaret Duffy designs fascinators and headwear guaranteed to turn heads.

Guests can also visit the hotel's bridal suite which will contain examples from stand holders displayed as they would be on the big day.

Said Carrie Southwell, Proprietor of the Fairwater Head Hotel 'We have concentrated on getting a wide selection of stands and exhibitors from a wedding singer to a harpist, handmade jewellery to marquees, make up to wedding dresses and wedding cakes to stationery. We really want to ensure every bride to be leaves the wedding fayre with lots of ideas for her big day'.

The hotel itself is situated close to Hawkchurch - the 'village of roses' - just four miles from Axminster and five miles from Lyme Regis so the wedding fayre is easy to reach from all local major centres. As well as the wedding fayre the hotel itself makes a great venue for small intimate weddings and while larger parties can take over the hotel or use a marquee in the grounds. Also the hotel now has its own civil wedding licence-what better setting for your wedding.

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Mazda looks forward to company car growth in 2011

- *Outright purchase and lease fleets are Mazda's focus*
- *More franchise dealers targeting corporate sales*
- *Fleet managers and drivers embrace stylish and competitive range*

MAZDA UK is anticipating an increase in company car demand from outright purchase fleets and contract hire and leasing businesses this year.

The brand has successfully increased its penetration of public and private sector fleets that fund vehicles through outright purchase, Mazda Contract Hire and specialist leasing providers.

Last year those 'core' end-user fleet registrations accounted for 6,497 units out of total Mazda fleet registrations of 10,648 vehicles - up from 6,061 and 10,498 respectively in 2009.

This year, Mazda Fleet and Remarketing Director Peter Allibon is forecasting that end-user fleet registrations will be close to 7,500 units. That is equivalent to a 15 percent rise in 'core channel' sales, which will be helped by:

- More Mazda franchise dealers focusing on their local fleet marketplace as they tap into the marque's Business Development Programme, which sees centres working in tandem with an outsourced specialist sales team to target corporate sales
- The introduction of a Fleet focused Mazda6 derivative that will be arriving later this year
- The arrival of the New Mazda5 1.6-litre 115ps turbo diesel with emissions of 138g/km

As a result of Mazda tightly managing its other fleet channels, including daily rental and Motability sales, Allibon is predicting that total fleet sales will be slightly down on 2010 levels.

However, he said: "Our relationships with end-user fleets and leasing companies continue to strengthen and that is manifesting itself in rising demand for Mazda cars. Consequently, end-user fleet registrations as a percentage of Mazda's total fleet sales will rise this year and account for at least 70 percent of overall corporate volumes."

Last year Mazda's corporate sales team, which focuses on the management of major end-user accounts, reported registrations totalling 3,081 vehicles - a near 20 percent increase on 2009's equivalent figure of 2,572.

Allibon said: "Such a significant increase was tremendous and we will be looking to continue to grow that element of our sales in 2011 alongside our leased business and small fleet volumes through our franchise dealers."

Mazda's success in increasing its corporate sales year-on-year despite seeing a reduction in total new car sales in 2010 to 45,449 registrations (2009: 47,934) was reflective of the overall new car market which saw a rise in registrations to fleets and small businesses along with a decline in private sales which was driven by the removal of the Scrappage scheme.

The Mazda6 was the model that put Mazda on the fleet map in the first decade of the 21st century, Allibon said: "The model continues to be Mazda's fleet best-seller, meanwhile demand for the Mazda3 keeps rising and corporate registrations of the Mazda2 and MX-5 also rose in 2010.

"Mazda delivers stylish and sporty vehicles at a competitive price with strong wholelife costs. This is continuing to prove an attractive proposition to fleet decision-makers and company car drivers. Additionally, specification-adjusted prices make the Mazda product range even better value versus our rivals."

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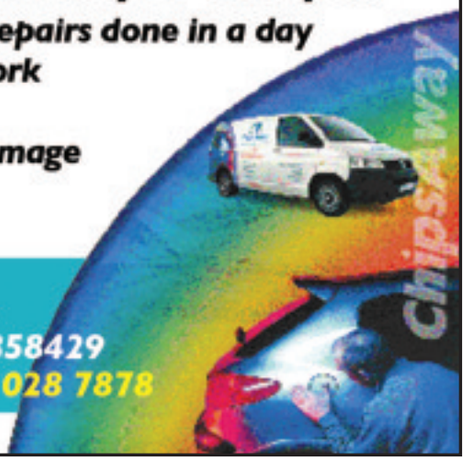

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Official fuel consumption for the SEAT range in mpg (litres per 100km): urban 26.4 (10.7) - 67.3 (4.2); extra-urban 42.8 (6.6) - 91.1 (3.1); combined 34.9 (8.1) - 80.7 (3.5).

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Fleets take delivery of new lpg-powered Mazdas

- *Mazda3 and Mazda6 models available for conversion*
- *BP, Calor Gas and Gleaner Oils add cars to their fleets*
- *Financial savings and emission reductions promised*

MAZDA has seen an increase in Mazda6 sales to UK fleets who intend to convert the car to liquefied petroleum gas with the expectation of significantly more orders in the pipeline.

Mazda6 LPG conversions have already joined the fleet of the LPG Division of fuel giant BP. Additionally, Mazda3 and Mazda6 models have been ordered by Calor Gas for conversion and Gleaner Oils has three Mazda3 models on order. Mazda is also in talks with a number of other organisations about supplying cars for LPG conversion purposes.

The aftermarket conversions are all being carried out by Prins Autogas UK, which has two in-house conversion centres in the West Midlands and Southampton.

The company, which now also operates a Mazda6 LPG car, is the UK distributor of Prins Autogas Systems, which is owned by Dutch company SHV Gas, which also owns Calor Gas in the UK.

Mazda Fleet and Remarketing Director Peter Allibon said: "Prins Autogas UK undertook the conversion work on behalf of BP after the company ordered its first Mazda models.

"They were so delighted with the conversion and the styling of the model that they contacted Mazda to say they would like to undertake other conversion work in the future. That triggered significant interest from a number of fleets, including Calor Gas and Gleaner Oils, and we are in talks with a number of other businesses interested in taking delivery of LPG converted Mazdas."

Now Prins Autogas UK is recommending Mazda cars and state: "Mazda's cars are very high quality and lend themselves for LPG conversion, particularly as having fitted the tank boot space remains significant."

In 2001, UK sales of LPG cars peaked at 26,000 vehicles, while demand subsequently shrunk after the Government withdrew grants, which helped offset the additional cost of the vehicles. In 2009, 12,500 LPG cars were sold in the UK of which 12,250 were the result of retro-fit conversions.

Nevertheless, Prins UK say: "There is demand for LPG vehicles, particularly in the fleet sector. Conversions cost £1,500 to £2,000 depending on model. LPG remains significantly cheaper than petrol and businesses will recoup the after-market conversion costs, in most cases, within 18 months."

Average UK fuel prices currently, according to website petrolprices.com are, 128.72p a litre for unleaded petrol, 133.64p a litre for diesel and 76.35p a litre for LPG.

Retro-fit conversions can be carried out on petrol-engined Mazda3 1.6 and 2.0-litre models and petrol-engined Mazda6 1.8, 2.0 and 2.5-litre models.

Environmental benefits include a 10 percent well-to-wheel reduction in CO2 emissions versus both petrol and diesel-engined cars, a 99 percent reduction in particulate matter when compared with diesel-engined cars and a 95 percent saving in nitrogen oxide (NOx) in comparison with diesel-engined cars.

Allibon added: "LPG can provide clear financial fuel savings and environmental benefits, both of which are crucial to fleets with the business focus very much on cost management and carbon footprint reduction."

Calor Gas, which runs a 185-strong fleet and has now adopted an all-LPG company car requirement, recently added Mazda to its three-badge company car choice list.

Ian Davis, Group Purchasing Manager, said: "We broadened the choice of cars for our drivers with the addition of both the Mazda3 and Mazda6. We are delighted at Mazda's decision to move into LPG and the move is proving popular with staff. We already have four Mazda6 models and two Mazda3 models on order. I anticipate that more orders will follow this year."

The LPG division of BP has already taken delivery of four Mazda6 LPG cars and has a number of other cars on order.

Joseph Corless, BP LPG Manager, said: "We are delighted to see Mazda's interest in supporting the autogas market in the UK. Autogas is one of the few real alternatives offering environmental benefits at lower cost to the motorist. BP is also committed to supporting this market."

Scotland-headquartered Gleaner Oils distributes all types of fuel including LPG and either owns or suppliers 32 autogas outlets. The company operates a fleet of 40 company cars and vans of which 35 run on LPG and believes it is a shrewd way to promote the benefits of autogas.

Managing director David Todd said: "We expect to take delivery of the Mazda3 LPG cars early this year. These will be the first Mazdas to join our fleet. The brand was recommended to us as an alternative to our previous marques, which have moved away from LPG."

SUBARU DEMONSTRATORS AT REDUCED PRICES

10 (60) WRX STi 4 Dr Dark Grey, Recaro Leather, Alcantara Climate Cruise Bluetooth, 1k £31,995
10 (60) Legacy Tourer 2.0 D SE, Steel Silver/Full Ebony Leather, 3k £24,995
10 (60) Impreza 2.0 D RX Spark Silver/Full Ebony Leather, 1k £22,995
10 (10) Legacy Tourer 2.5 SE Lineartronic (Automatic) Graphite Grey/Full Ebony Leather, 1k £23,995

USED VEHICLES

10 (10) Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140ps) Titanium 5Dr, Hypnotic Silver/Ebony, Climate Cruise, Power Fold Mirrors, Sony 6 CD, Privacy Glass, 5k £15,995
09 (59) Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140ps) Titanium X Estate Hypnotic Silver/Ash 1/2 Leather, Alcantara Climate Cruise F/R PDC 16k £15,995
09 (59) Toyota Auris 1.4 Ltd Edition, 5Dr, Black/Ash, Alloys, A/C, 5k £9,995
09 (09) Seat Altea XL Stylance 2.0 TDI (170ps) Silver/Grey Climate Cruise PDC 27k £13,495
09 (09) Ford C-Max 1.8 TDCi (115ps) Zetec Tango Red/Grey Alloys A/C HFS 12k £11,995
09 (09) Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SXi, 5Dr, Black Sapphire/Ash, Alloys, A/C, 4k £8,995
09 (09) Ford Fusion 1.6 Titanium Automatic Ocean Blue/Grey, A/C, Alloys, HFS 14k £8,995
09 (09) Peugeot 207 1.4 VTi S SW Silver/Ash A/C 5k £8,495
08 (58) Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi (115ps), Titanium, 5Dr, Avalon/Ebony, Alloys, A/C, Sony CD, 24k £10,995
08 (08) Jaguar X-Type 2.2 D Sovereign Automatic, Emerald Fire/Ivory Leather, 26k £16,995
08 (08) Peugeot 207 1.6 T GTi 3Dr Flamenco Red/Ash 1/2 Leather, Alcantara Climate PDC 18k £8,995
08 (57) Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia, 5Dr, Panther Black/Ash Leather, Alloys, A/C, Power Fold Mirrors, 24k £6,995
08 (57) Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate Automatic Ocean Blue/Ash, Alloys A/C HFS 14k £6,495
07 (57) Mini Cooper 'S', Mellow Yellow/Full Leather, Alloys, A/C, Cruise, Factory Sunroof, 19k £12,995
07 (57) Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140ps), Zetec, 5Dr, Stardust Silver/Grey, Alloys, Climate Cruise, Sport Pack, 38k £10,495
07 (57) Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi (136ps) CC-2, Aqua/Grey, Power fold Hardtop, 41k ... £9,995
07 (57) Renault Scenic 1.6 Dynamique Automatic, Eclipse/Ash, Alloys, A/C, Cruise, 25k £6,995
07 (57) Daihatsu Sirion 1.3 SE Automatic 5Dr Mint Blue/Ash, Alloys, A/C, PDC, 18k £6,995
07 (57) Daihatsu Sirion 1.3 SE Automatic 5Dr Champagne Opal/Ash, Alloys A/C PDC 23k £6,495
07 (57) Daihatsu Sirion 1.3 SE 5Dr, Shinning Red/Ash, Alloys, A/C, PDC, 24k £5,995
07 (07) Ford C-Max 2.0 Titanium Automatic Aquarius Blue/Ebony, Alloys, Climate Cruise, Panoramic Sunroof, rear parking sensors, Sony CD 22k £8,495
07 (07) Peugeot 307 1.6 HDi Sport Antigua Blue/Ash Leather, Alloys, Climate Cruise, 31k £7,995
07 (07) Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Ghia, 5Dr, Tango Red/Ebony, Alloys, A/C, Cruise Sony CD, 30k £7,695
07 (07) Peugeot 307 1.6 Sport Onyx Black/Ash, Leather, Alloys, Climate Cruise, 18k £7,495
06 (06) Peugeot 307 1.6 S 5Dr, Silver/Ash, Alloys A/C, 33k £5,495
07 (07) Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 3Dr Colorado Red/Ash, Alloys A/C HFS 44k £5,295
06 (06) BMW 120 d (163ps) SE 5Dr Sydney Blue/Ash, Alloys, Climate PDC 43k £9,995
05 (55) Subaru Outback 2.5 SE, Silver/Ash Leather, Alloys, Climate, Sunroof, Cruise, 58k £9,995
05 (55) Subaru Impreza WRX 4Dr, Black/Grey, Alloys, Climate, 30k £8,495
05 (55) Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Design Estate Automatic Silver Lightning/1/2 Leather, Alloys, A/C 30k £4,995
05 (55) Renault Scenic 1.6 Expression, Grey/Beige, A/C, 28k £4,995
05 (05) VW Polo (New Model) 1.2 E 3Dr, Summer Blue/Grey, 19k £4,995

PART EXCHANGE VEHICLES

All these vehicles below are supplied with a 6 month warranty

05 (05) Toyota Corolla Verso 2.0 D-4D T3, Silver Steel/Ash, Alloys, Climate, Cruise, 92k £5,995
04 (04) Rover 25 1.6iL Automatic, Silver/ ½ Leather, A/C, 31k £3,495
03 (03) Ford Streetka, Luxury Storm, Grey/Ash Leather, Alloys, A/C, 66k £3,695
03 (03) Renault Megane 1.6 Fidji Convertible, Silver/Grey, Alloys, Electric Hood, 67k £3,495
03 (52) MG TF 135 Sprint Le-Mans, Green/Half Leather/Alcantara, Windstop, Green Hood, 44k £3,995
01 (51) Landrover Freelander 1.8 GS Station Wagon Rioja Red, Alloys, A/C HDC 64k £3,995

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Tyres can suffer a 'hole' lot of damage following cold snap

DRIVERS are being advised by TyreSafe, the UK's leading tyre safety organisation, that they can minimise the damaging effects of driving over potholes by making sure their tyres are correctly inflated.

Hitting a pothole can cause serious internal tyre damage, which may result in dangerous sidewall bulges, or result in cuts to the tyre which may expose cords, rendering it both dangerous and illegal.

It has been estimated that in 2010 there were 8,000 pot hole related claims to insurers and the early signs are that 2011 will exceed this due to the damage caused to roads during the freezing weather.

Local authorities are also facing pressure as to which roads they prioritise for repair due to cuts of up to 20 per cent in road maintenance budgets. According to the Local Government Association, Councils in England and Wales face a £165m funding gap to repair roads damaged by the winter weather.

Stuart Jackson, chairman, TyreSafe, comments: "Potholes can cause significant damage to wheels and tyres. It's therefore important for drivers to ensure their tyres are properly inflated to reduce any potential damage. If they do suffer the misfortune of hitting a pothole, drivers should make sure both their wheels and tyres are thoroughly inspected by a professional for signs of damage. This may occur in the form of cuts or bulges in the tyre or, as we have seen increasing cases of, hairline fractures appearing in alloy wheels.

"In fact, whatever time of year it is motorists should always check their tyre pressure at least once a month and especially if they are planning any long journeys."

Other effects of hitting a pothole include wheel misalignment. If there is significant misalignment the car may pull to one side or cause vibrations in the steering wheel which can be distracting and make the vehicle difficult to control. In less severe cases this can go unnoticed by the driver yet still result in increased or irregular tyre wear and higher fuel costs.

"Many garages and tyre dealers offer free tyre safety inspections for drivers. Properly equipped workshops can also perform some quick and simple checks to make sure the wheels are properly aligned," adds Stuart Jackson.

If motorists are unsure of the correct tyre pressure for their car, they can visit the TyreSafe website at www.tyresafe.organd enter their vehicle's registration details or by downloading the TyreSafe iPhone App. Alternatively, details can be found in the vehicle manufacturer's handbook, inside the fuel filler cap or on a sticker inside the driver's door sill.

For further information about tyre safety visit www.tyresafe.org

STREET SCENE

HOWARD LARCOMBE *reporting on the Perry Street League*

County cup interest ends in penalty shoot-out at Tor

A BATTLING Somerset Intermediate Cup performance from Winsham United ended in disappointment as Street-based hosts Tor FC squeezed through to the quarter-finals after a penalty shoot-out.

Goals from Tom Stead, Joe Simmons and Daniel Isaacs helped The Winsh to a 3-3 draw after extra-time but the spot-kick drama proved to be too much for Phil Loaring's side and they crashed out of the competition so ending the PSL's involvement in the Somerset County cups for another season.

CHALLENGE CUP

A SECOND-HALF Neil Hawkins goal earned Misterton a place in the quarter-finals of the 99-year-old Challenge Cup.

Opponents Farway United had earlier taken first-half lead which was cancelled out by Will Brooks.

It was the same score line at Lightgate Lane where an off-colour South Petherton edged past West & Middle Chinnock courtesy of a Rich Hebditch penalty and a winner from Jon Hayter.

There was much more between the sides at the Memorial Ground where Beaminster hammered Ilminster Reserves for the the second time in seven days - this time 6-0.

KEN HODGES CUP

SHEPTON Beauchamp Reserves' six-game winning run came to and end despite a Will Aplin goal in a 2-1 home defeat by Waytown Hounds.

As predicted in this column there were also wins for Chard United (3-2 v Thorncombe Res) thanks to a late winner from Luke Joy, and W & M Chinnock Res - although the latter's 9-3 triumph was hardly the anticipated close-run affair! Dan Rudge (4) and Ashley Cooper (3) gorged on the goals and have now scored 41 between them this season.

BILL BAILEY CUP - Round One

TOP-OF-THE-TABLE Crewkerne Reserves need ed a 119th minute Aaron Hodges goal to finally lay lowly Millwey Rise Reserves to rest after a 4-3 battle.

Meanwhile Chard United crashed out 2-0 in Devon at Farway United Reserves.

REG EGLON CUP - Round One

COMBE B, still looking for their first win since early November travel to Netherbury to attempt to tame the Waytown Hounds.

DAISY HUTCHINGS CUP - Round One

THE tie of the day sees two of the league's heavy scorers go head-to-head when Uplyme visit Dowlish & Donyatt.

The other three ties see lower division side's hunting giant killings - and all three have a reasonable chance.

Division Three outfit Winsham United Reserves are in fine form having won their last four but opponents Forton Reserves have also shown signs of improvement in Division Two.

Millwey Rise Reserves maybe languishing at the bottom of Division Three but hosts Pymore, with one win in eight are struggling near the foot of Division Two.

Finally Barrington Reserves of Division Four travel to Farway Reserves. Expect goals in this one; The Yellow Hammers last drew a blank 15 months ago whilst the heavy Eastlee Park surface usually causes nightmares for defenders

PREMIER

BARRINGTON held title contenders Lyme Regis for 41 minutes at the Davey Fort before being breached four times as the Seasiders closed the gap on the leading pack.

Manager Mike Harrison and his squad face another tough test tomorrow with the visit of Beaminster who are now unbeaten in nine.

A double from Stuart Packer was enough to haul Perry Street off the foot of the table follwing a 2-2 draw with depleted Merriott Rovers who had goals from Craig Lodge and Jason Manley. Both teams are the road tomorrow; Merriott at Misterton and the Mothers at Lyme.

Ilminster Reserves must break a run of four straight defeats if they are to be the first team to take a point off leaders South Petherton at Lightgate Lane tomorrow.

Both West & Middle Chinnock and Combe Reserves have shown improved form of late. A first home win of the season for the Chinnocks will see them leapfrog over their opponents and off the bottom of the table.

DIVISION ONE

ILMINSTER Colts gave their survival hopes a boost with a 6-0 thrashing of Norton Athletic who look to be on the slide back down into Division Two.

The Colts, who had six different scorers, can head further into mid-table security with three points from tomorrow's visit of Charmouth who haven't won an away league game in more than a year and a half.

With only three homes games remaining, and two of those against Crewkerne and Millwey, Norton must feel they will have to beat Thorncombe tomorrow to put distance between themselves and Lyme Reserves.

Despite being the last team to beat Winsham in a league game on their own turf Lyme will do well to take anything from their trip Baker's Field tomorrow.

The Crewkerne Town goal machine continues to rumble along. The latest team to fall beneath the wheels were Charmouth with Jamie Spurdle moving upto 16 goals for the season with a hat-trick. The Tigers visit Perry Street Reserves tomorrow.

The day's other match sees Forton Rangers travel to Millwey Rise. The Rangers have finished 4th, 3rd and 3rd since their relegation from the Premier back in 2006-7. But it looks like anything other than a win tomorrow and a midtable finish beckons.

DIVISION TWO

LEADERS Dowlish & Donyatt were toppled off the top spot after being mauled 6-1 by visiting Shepton Beauchamp. Sam Murley and Kris Hastings both scored twice.

Shepton can continue their impressive form with more of the same from the visit of Crewkerne Rangers.

The Rangers finally failed to net in a league game for the first time in their history (56 games) last weekend when they were hammered 5-0 at Hinton.

After a superb 4-1 win over South Petherton Res Chard Rangers can clamber out of the drop zone with a win at Hawkchurch.

DIVISION THREE

BRIAN Tillotson's fifth goal in four games and a last minute winner from Rob Long helped Winsham Reserves to a narrow 4-3 win over Combe A.

Tomorrow Combe entertain Chard United who currently lie on the fringes of the promotion places.

Top of the table Crewkerne Res visit Lyme Bantams tomorrow whilst rivals Luso-Chard entertain Drimpton at Forton.

DIVISION FOUR

DALE Hutter moved to eight for the season with both goals in Chard Rangers' 2-2 draw at Combe B. Richard Wilmott scored twice as Ilminster Town A came from behind to beat Hawkchurch Reserves 4-2.

Pick of the games tomorrow is at table-topping Hinton Reserves where Shepton Beauchamp Reserves are the visitors.

Crewkerne Rangers finally draw a blank

■ **DISAPPOINTED: The Drimpton squad which beat Winsham Reserves in the recent John Fowler Cup semi-final only to be disqualified for fielding an ineligible player. Line-up, back row from left; George Tuck, Steve Dunkerton, Nick Hole (captain), Gavin Tanner, Sam Caddy, Kevin Wheeler, Matt Isaacs, Lee Drayton (manager). Front: Joe Gawronski, Dan Legg, Charlie Adams, Andy Burch, Ollie Wills. Adam Chant, Mark Brunt.**

Photo by HOWARD LARCOMBE

THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES LIST

REG EGLON CUP - Quarter-Final
Waytown Hounds v Combe B

DAISY HUTCHINGS CUP - Round One
Dowlish & Donyatt v Uplyme
Farway United Res v Barrington Reserves
Forton Rangers Res v Winsham United Res
Pymore v Millwey Rise Reserves

PREMIER
Barrington v Beaminster
Lyme Regis v Perry Street
Misterton v Merriott Rovers
South Petherton v Ilminster Town Reserves
West & Middle Chinnock v Combe Reserves

DIVISION ONE
Ilminster Town Colts v Charmouth
Millwey Rise v Forton Rangers
Norton Athletic v Thorncombe
Perry Street Reserves v Crewkerne Town
Winsham United v Lyme Regis Reserves

DIVISION TWO
Beaminster Res v South Petherton Reserves
Hawkchurch United v Chard Rangers
Shepton Beauchamp v Crewkerne Rangers

DIVISON THREE
Combe A v Chard United
Luso-Chard v Drimpton
Lyme Regis Bantams v Crewk Town Reserves

DIVISION FOUR
Chard Rangers Reserves v Ilminster Town A
Chard Utd Res v Hawkchurch United Res
Hinton Res v Shepton Beauchamp Res
Thorncombe Res v W & M Chinnock Res

streetdigest

Updated Cup draws

CHALLENGE - Quarter-finals; Beaminster v Merriott Rovers (26th Feb), Barrington v Perry Street (19th Feb), South Petherton v Lyme Regis (19th Feb), Misterton v Combe Res (19th Feb).
BILL BAILEY - Quarter-finals; Combe A v Farway Utd Res, Luso-Chard v Misterton Res, Winsham Utd Res v Lyme Bantams, Drimpton v Crewkerne Res (All 19th Feb).
KENNY HODGES - Quarter-finals; Waytown Hounds v W & M Chinnock Res, Chard Rangers Res v Chard Utd Res, Hawkchurch Res v Combe B, Ilminster A v Hinton Res (All Feb 19th).

Chard United FC

CHARD United are in need of changing rooms for the remainder of the season and will be given no home games until a solution is found. The club were hoping to find a one-off facility for tomorrow's Reserve team match v Hawkchurch.

League tables

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Petherton	9	9	0	0	43	9	27
Merriott Rovers	13	8	2	3	42	26	26
Beaminster	10	8	1	1	31	7	25
Lyme Regis	9	7	1	1	30	11	22
Ilminster Town Reserves	7	4	0	3	12	16	12
Barrington	12	2	4	6	24	37	10
Farway United	7	2	1	4	20	24	7
Misterton	10	1	4	5	16	35	7
Combe Reserves	13	2	1	10	19	40	7
Perry Street	10	1	3	6	14	25	6
West & Middle Chinnock	10	1	3	6	16	37	6

DIV ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Winsham United	10	9	0	1	36	10	27
Netherbury	11	9	0	2	36	18	27
Crewkerne Town	10	8	1	1	50	13	25
Millwey Rise	9	7	1	1	43	12	22
Perry Street Reserves	11	6	1	4	28	30	19
Forton Rangers	11	5	2	4	25	25	17
Ilminster Town Colts	13	4	1	8	30	47	13
Thorncombe	14	4	1	9	24	43	10
Norton Athletic	13	3	1	8	21	44	10
Lyme Regis Reserves	10	1	2	6	15	31	5
Charmouth	12	1	0	11	12	47	3

DIV TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaminster Reserves	12	8	3	1	48	20	27
Shepton Beauchamp	12	7	5	0	39	11	26
Dowlish & Donyatt	14	8	1	5	40	25	25
Hinton Reserves	13	7	2	4	33	28	23
Uplyme	13	5	2	6	45	34	17
South Petherton Reserves	13	5	2	6	27	30	17
Crewkerne Rangers	14	5	2	7	33	39	17
Pymore	11	4	2	5	25	37	14
Hawkchurch United	13	4	1	8	28	41	13
Chard Rangers	12	3	2	7	30	50	11
Forton Rangers Reserves	13	2	2	9	23	56	8

DIV THREE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crewkerne Town Reserves	12	9	1	2	56	24	28
Misterton Reserves	9	8	1	0	39	16	25
Luso-Chard	12	7	0	5	50	24	21
Chard United	11	6	2	3	35	19	20
Combe A	14	6	2	6	37	37	20
Winsham United Reserves	11	4	1	6	32	39	13
Lyme Bantams	13	3	2	8	25	34	11
Farway United Reserves	12	3	2	7	17	52	11
Drimpton	10	2	3	5	13	45	9
Millwey Rise Reserves	10	1	2	7	13	29	5

DIV FOUR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hinton Reserves	12	9	2	1	43	19	29
W & M Chinnock Reserves	10	7	1	2	59	20	22
Shepton Beau Reserves	12	7	1	4	37	30	21*
Waytown Hounds	9	6	1	2	28	20	19
Combe B	12	6	1	5	35	37	19
Chard United Reserves	11	5	1	5	30	32	16
Ilminster Town A	11	5	0	6	40	28	14*
Barrington Reserves	10	4	2	4	26	27	12*
Thorncombe Reserves	11	3	2	6	15	30	11
Hawkchurch United Res	14	1	3	10	19	60	6
Chard Rangers Reserves	12	1	2	9	18	47	5

(* = POINTS ADJUSTED)

Top scorers

PREMIER: Julien Simier (Lyme Regis) 17, Scott Jennings (Merriott Rovers), 16, Jon Hayter (South Petherton) 12.
DIVISION ONE: Tim Hussey (Hawkchurch United) 23, Sam Dibling (Millwey Rise) 21, Tom Stead (Winsham United) 16.
DIVISION TWO: Sam Murley (Shepton Beau) 17, Dan Pyett (Beaminster Reserves) 15, Gavin Fowler (Uplyme), Dan Smith (Shepton) 13.
DIVISION THREE: Marco Quedas (Luso-Chard) 26, Ricky Smith (Misterton Reserves, Adam Swinnerton, Aaron Hodges (both Crewkerne Reserves) 16.
DIVISION FOUR: Ashley Cooper (W & M Chinnock Res) 21, Dan Rudge (W & M Chinnock Reserves) 20, Will Aplin (Shepton Beauchamp Reserves) 19. *(Excl Chard Hospital Cup).*

RUGBY REVIEW

FOUR TRYS A MUST FOR CHARD

By **Keith Jenkin**

TOMORROW is devoted to the playing of 'catch up' league fixtures, and all the local sides are involved.

CHARD were done a very good turn last weekend when their nearest challengers, Minehead Barbarians, were edged out by a single point by Avon, thus giving the Dening Field side an 11 point cushion, together with a game in hand over their nearest rivals, in the division's second place.

They notched a bonus point win over a competitive Midsomer Norton side, and travel to GORDANO on Saturday next where they will most certainly be looking to maintain their promotion push. I understand one or two of the Gordano players stopped off and watched some of Chard's game against Imperial a couple of weeks ago, and subsequently left with a dent in their confidence regarding this game.

Who knows? What they saw may well have hardened their resolve! In any event, I would take the Dening Field side to win this one, and with quite a bit to spare. They will certainly need to do so, and to secure the four try bonus point, for leaders Hornets will, in all probability, do just that when they take on Winscombe. In fact, I really cannot see Hornets falling away as regards form, and feel that they will end the season as champions of the Somerset Premier Division, leaving Chard with the prospect of a promotion play-off.

CREWKERNE who will have been disappointed by their reversal at WELLS 2nd, travel to take on TAUNTON 3rd, a side whom they have yet to face this season. Their home fixture was scheduled for 27th November but fell victim to the weather.

Now I do feel that the performance of both the Taunton second and third sides has fallen away just a little this season and my opinion is that Crewkerne certainly have a chance to come out on top in this one, away from home though they are. It will need their best effort however, for their opponents lie, with them, in the mid-table of the Somerset League Division Two (South) and will most certainly not be push overs.

As to the second sides, Chard seconds will most certainly be relieved that the Ivel Barbarians first side have a fixture. They take on Ivel barbarians seconds at home and will certainly be looking to collect a bonus point win from this encounter, for Ivel have not troubled many sides in the division this season (although they did so on Saturday last after their first team's game had been conceded), and are certainly a candidate for relegation.

Chard thirds play Wyvern at the Crewkerne Road ground. Their opponents have suffered less than most from the inclement weather, although the earlier fixture at Taunton had to be postponed. Chard will not find the going easy in this one, home advantage notwithstanding.

FIXTURES 12th February

Chard v Gordano (away); Chard 2nd v Ivel Barbarians 2nd (home); Chard 3rd v Wyvern (home); Crewkerne v Taunton 3rd (away).

Chard Swimming

CHARD & District Swimmers travelled to Cardiff International 50m Pool on the weekend of the 22/23rd January to compete in the Exeter City Swimming Club Level 1 Meet *writes Steph Hallam*.

New club records were awarded to Lauren Harrison, 13, in the 800m Free (14 yrs & under time of 10-28.48) grabbing a bronze medal; and Tessa Down, 13, rewarded with two new 14 yrs & under club records winning the 50m Breast (36-41) and also obtaining a bronze medal in the 100m Breast (1-18.71), the latter being a SWRQT.

Tessa achieved another bronze in the 200m Breast with a SWRct (2-56.32) and a further SWRQT in 200m IndMedley (2-38.78) finishing 6th. In the 200m Free she achieved a SWRct (2-20.92) with two further 8th positions in the 50m and 100m Back.

Other Individual wins went to Luke van den Barselaar (200m Back), Jake Hallam (50m Bfly), and Charlie Kendall (50m Back) for their respective age groups.

Luke van den Barselaar, 15, had a great weekend winning gold in the 200m Back (SWRQT of 2-22.11); he also achieved a silver medal in the 50m Back (SWRQT of 30.28); a bronze medal in the 100m Back (SWRQT of 1-05.20) and in the 50m Free achieved a SWRct of 26.50 with 6th place. In the 200m Ind Medley, he obtained a SWRct of 2-30.28 finishing 8th. Luke also secured 7th place in the 50m Bfly.

Jake Hallam, 14, won gold in the 50m Bfly event (SWRQT of 27.48) and received a silver medal in the 100m Bfly with a SWRQT of 1-02.61; finished 4th in the 200m Ind Medley (SWRQT of 2-22.53) and 100m Breast (SWRct of 1-14.55) grabbing 5th in the 100m free and 7th in the 50m Free.

Daniel Walker, 14, achieved three silver medals, in the 200m Breast (SWRQT of 2-44.88); 100m Breast (SWRQT of 1-11.69) and in the 50m Breast. In the 100m Free he secured a SWRQT of 59.07 finishing 6th.

Elisha Hawkins, 11, achieved a silver medal in the 200m Breast (SWRQT of 3-09.90), bronze medal in the 100m Butterfly and in the 100m Breast (SWRQT of 1-31.52) securing 6th place. Elisha also achieved 6th place in the 50m Breast.

Jodie Hake, 14, finished 5th in the 50m Back (SWRQT of 34.12) and 6th in the 200m Back with a SWRct of 2-36.38.

Abigail Dare, 13, achieved a silver medal in the 50m Back (SWRQT 33.80) and achieved a SWRct in the 200m Back (2-40.28) finishing in 7th place. In the 50m Bfly, Abigail achieved 4th and in the 100m Back came 5th.

Madeline Ryder, 15, grabbed a bronze medal in the 100m Free (a SWRQT of 1-01.71) with 4th places in the 50m Free (SWRct of 28.84) and in the 50m Bfly. Madeline also achieved 5th place in the 200m Free with a SWRQT of 2-12.06.

Hannah Pullinger, 15, achieved 5th place in the 50m Free (SWRct of 29.12); obtaining two 6th places in the 100m Free (SWRct of 1-03.52) and in 50m Breast.

Tamsin Edge, 10, grabbed a bronze medal in the 50m Breast and 4th place in the 200m.

Charlie Kendall, 10, won gold in the 50m Back came 4th in both the 200m Ind Medley and 200m Breast. Ben Fowler, 14, secured two 6th places in the 100m and 200m Back events with Lewis Pearson, 11, also obtaining 6th place in the 200m Free.

Daniella Edge, Mollie Simpson and Lauren van den Barselaar also achieved some pb times.

SPORTS BRIEFING..

FOOTBALL - SOMERSET SENIOR

Robins boosted by local derby triumph

By **Howard Larcombe**

BRIDPORT 0 CHARD TOWN 3

SO OFTEN league positions mean little in local derbies, and so it proved at St Mary's Field on Tuesday night when Chard Town turned the tables on promotion-chasing Bridport *writes Stuart Broom*.

Chard took the game to their hosts from the start, and they were rewarded as early as the third minute when a right wing corner was not cleared properly and Will Spurway rifled in a left foot shot from the edge of the box that took a couple of deflections on its way into the net.

Bridport strove to take control and get back in the game, but chances were few and far between with most attacks petering out in the last third as Chard's back four, who worked tirelessly throughout, forced the Bees into errors with their final ball.

Ryan Dovell had a great chance to equalise on 17 minutes after he was put through by Matt Condliffe, but he scuffed his shot and Stu Parris, who was safe as houses all night, easily held his low shot to his left.

Chard replied with Sam Spurway's glancing header from Adam Fricker's free-kick that just slipped past the far post.

Chard were in the main sitting back and hitting Bridport on the break, and they caught them out on 28 minutes when a long ball down the right found Sam Clark who cut in before driving an angled shot past Sam Filkins.

This was Clark's 23rd goal in only his 24th appearance and his speed and strength, despite his slight frame, proved a handful for the Bees defence.

Chard came out the blocks quickly at the start of the second-half, and Filkins was forced into a save, pushing Jason Manley's shot around the post following a corner, before Chris Senior blocked Clark's close range header from Fricker's cross on the line at the far post.

Senior then set up a chance for Adam Symes with a superb diagonal ball but his low shot was well held by Parris.

The Robins made the game safe just after the hour when Ryan Hayter and Darren Lock got in a tangle clearing the ball inside the box.

The ball rebounded to Adam Tovey, recently signed from Combe St Nicholas, who swivelled and clipped a hopeful cross towards the far post, where it drifted in via the inside of the post.

Chard shut up shop for the last half hour, and despite manager Trevor Senior introducing all three substitutes, the Robins frustrated Bridport and hit them on the break.

Lock's poor defensive header was almost punished, but Filkins clawed away Clark's shot before recovering and forcing sub Dan Cleal to put his shot over the top.

Filkins then produced a spectacular save from Clark's 20-yard volley after the ball had fallen kindly to him in a tussle with Lock.

In the second minute of an amazing ten minutes of added time, Wise produced Bridport's best effort of the night; a 35-yard dipping volley but it went straight at Parris.

◆ **Adam Tovey**: First goal for Chard in derby triumph.

The victory lifts up to 13th in the table ahead of tomorrow's trip to lowly Portishead Town. This is followed by Tuesday's visit by Westbury United (7.30pm ko).

ILMINSTER TOWN

AFTER a 1-0 reverse at promotion rivals Frome Collegians Ilminster Town will look to make up ground at the top of the Somerset League Divison One with victory against table-topping Berrow at the Rec.

Blues' player-manager Darren Manley felt his sidedeserved certainly deserved to take something from the game, he said: "I brought in Mike Cossins for regular goalkeeper Chris May who was unavailable and he had hardly anything to do."

Manley has a full squad for the visit of Berrow who won the Division Two (West) title last season and are unbeaten in 11 matches since a 7-0 hammering at Weston St Johns back in September: "They're clearly on a roll; I understand the team is made up of some of the players who were playing for Burnham United in the Western League a few years back." said Manley.

Manley has a full squad to choose from, but has confirmed that striker Chris Nezianya who was missing last week through work commitments, will definitely start.

COMBE St NICHOLAS

THE Saints' season reaches a crital point tomorrow with the visit of Yatton Athletic.

Combe can leap-frog over their opponents into third spot in the Somerset Division Two (West) table with victory at Slades Cross.

A win would complete a notable league double for Combe who were last side to defeat tomorrow's opponents back in October. "They're (Yatton) a good side, and certainly know where the net is." said Saints manager Ivor Hutchings who went on: "This is certainly a crucial weekend at the top of the table."

Hutchings has no fresh injury concerns after Scott and Shaun Wells-Burr scored the goals in a comfortable 2-0 win over a woeful Worle outfit last Saturday.

sportsdigest

Ilminster & District skittles

RESULTS - Division One: Flying Turkeys 354-2 (M.Towill, S.Ash 49) Cricketers 372-10 (M.Clydesdale 54), Kings Head 309-2 (G.Merrick 42) Ashill Inn 320-10 (L.Mills 45), Royals 368-2 Crown Faces 378-10 (N.Jenkins 57), Rockey's Rollers 363-2 (F.Steed 51) Hatch Beagles 391-10 (A.Stone 60).

LEAGUE DIVISION ONE	Pld	W	D	L	Pts
Ashill Inn	10	8	0	2	89
Crown Faces	10	5	0	5	62
Hatch Beagles	10	5	0	5	61
Carnival Clingons	9	6	0	3	54
Flying Turkeys	10	4	0	6	54
Royals	10	4	0	6	52
Rockey's Rollers	10	4	0	6	51
Kings Head	10	4	0	6	50
Cricketers	9	4	0	5	47

Division Two: Hatch Eggs 323-0 (S.Cregan 43) Nomads 367-12 (K.Keitch 61), Bell A 361-10 (S.Hooper 51) Donyatt Bowling Club 336-2 (G.Pearce, K.Kneeshaw, B.Wood 44), Wyndham Arms 328-5 (B.Bragg 50) Bell Broadway 328-7 (M.Cooper 44).

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO	Pld	W	D	L	Pts
Nomads	9	8	0	1	90
Royal Oak	9	7	0	2	76
Donyatt BC	10	6	0	4	69
Bell Broadway	9	5	1	3	60
Ashill Boys	9	5	0	4	55
Bell A	10	4	0	6	55
Wyndham Arms	9	4	1	4	54
Bell Clangers	9	3	0	6	28
Hatch Eggs	10	0	0	10	18

Chard Bowls

	Pld	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
East Coker A	11	8	1	2	26	17
Westway	11	7	1	3	21	15
Greyhounds	11	7	0	4	22	14
Magpies	12	5	1	6	16	11
Hurricanes	12	5	1	6	-13	11
Somerset Six	13	3	2	8	-20	8
Canaries	12	3	0	9	-52	6

Recent results (Feb 3rd): East Coker A 15 Magpies 15, Somerset Six 10 Westway 10, Canaries 8 Hot Shots 22.

◆ *This week the League's bowlers will pay their last resects to Audrey Smith who was a short mat bowler for many years.*

Yeovil & District mixed tennis

DIV 1	Pld	Pts
Sherborne A	10	77
Melcombe Regis	9	59
Charmouth	10	49
Martock A	6	43
Chard A	8	24
Sherborne B	9	23
Yeovil A	6	15

DIV 2	Pld	Pts
S.Petherton A	8	62
Somerton A	7	31
Ilminster	6	31
Martock B	4	21
Chard B	5	20
Weymouth A	6	15

DIV 3	Pld	Pts
Wincanton	9	52
Yeovil B	9	49
Beaminster	7	38
Misterton A	7	37
Somerton B	7	36
Bridport A	5	20
Somerton C	6	18

DIV 4	Pld	Pts
Bridport B	9	59
S.Petherton B	8	51
Martock C	9	50
Yeovil C	9	45
Weymouth B	9	38
Misterton B	7	25
Sutton Montis	7	22

Seaton Snooker

Results: Colyton Excons 6+4 Chard Cons & Pros 0, Sidmouth WMC B 1 Colyton Feds 5, Chard Casuals 5+2 Honiton WMC 1, Honiton Wanderers 5 Sidmouth WMC A 1+2, Colyton Excons 5 SidmouthWMC B 1+2, Colyton Feds 0 Honiton Wanderers 6.

	P	W	D	L	Bonus	Pts
Honiton Wanderers	14	14	0	0	0	71
Colyton Feds	14	6	2	6	24	66
Chard Pros & Cons	14	8	2	4	12	59
Colyton Excons	14	5	4	5	14	59
Chard Casuals	14	6	3	5	14	56
Honiton WMC	14	5	3	6	12	49
Sidmouth WMC B	14	2	4	8	18	48
Sidmouth WMC A	14	0	2	12	14	36

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Glovers In Focus

By Stuart Broom

Addicks halt Glovers run to safety

YEOVIL Town missed the chance to continue their recent run to safety in *n*power League One when they were beaten by a single strike from Bradley Wright-Phillips, his second winning goal in four days for Charlton Athletic since his move from Plymouth Argyle on transfer deadline day.

He found space from a corner just after the hour to head home from six yards for his 15th goal of the season, and condemn Yeovil to just their second defeat in ten league games.

Yeovil will claim that referee Karl Evans from Greater Manchester spoiled their chances of getting something from the game when he failed to send off former Tottenham central defender Gary Doherty for what appeared a nailed on second yellow card when he downed Andy Williams as he made his way to goal with 12 minutes to go.

After allowing the game to carry on, Evans then called Doherty across and gave him a lecture but failed to caution him, which having already booked him in the first half for bringing down Ollie Johnson would have meant dismissal.

He then turned down three strong appeals for penalties in Yeovil's favour in the closing minutes, which could have given the Glovers at least a share of the points.

Once again a referee's decision has influenced the result, but I believe Terry Skiverton's decision to stick with Ollie Johnson was also a reason for his side's lack of goal power.

Apart from skipper Paul Huntingdon with two efforts, one of them a golden opportunity with a free header early on that could have changed the game, and a couple of efforts from loanee Andrew Tutte, who looks a good prospect, Yeovil's attack failed to trouble the Addick's defence too much.

I was critical of Johnson on my first look at him against Plymouth midweek, but anybody can have an off day, and so was looking forward to a better performance.

However he never had a look in against the experienced central defensive pairing of Doherty and former Rangers and Scottish international Christian Dailly.

His main asset, his speed did in fact bring the booking for Doherty, but he was far too lightweight and inexperienced to outwit his markers and as a consequence was rarely in the game.

Despite his critics, Sam Williams appeared to be a much better option. Tall, hardworking and robust, he would have put the duo under so much more pressure.

The recent turn of fortune has seen Terry Skiverton nominated for the npower League One Manager of the Month award. Skivi is up against Huddersfield boss Lee Clarke, Brighton's Gus Poyet and the Rochdale manager Keith Hill.

By the same token, a series of brilliant displays capped by three goals has seen skipper Paul Huntingdon nominated for the League One Player of the Month, where he is contention against Bournemouth striker Liam Feeney, Brighton's Elliott Bennett and Rochdale's Craig Dawson.

◆ Yeovil have signed Republic of Ireland under-18 international Danny Fitsimons until the end of the season.

The 18-year-old left back was a product of Millwall's youth system, but moved to QPR last summer.

He was lately on loan at Blue Square Premier side Histon where he made six appearances.

Skivvo up for managerial award

◆ **YES!** George Herbert slides over for his first try last weekend.

CHARD 1st XV: Back left to right. Steve Broome, Brian Sugar, Ben Stead, James Wagstaff, Scott Johnson, Richard Mouland, Ryan Helliar, Neil Douglas, Alan Johnson. Front left to right. James Twigg, Ben Johnson, Nick Hyslop, Mark Parsons, Matt Tinley, Simon Boyd, George Herbert, Carl Abercrombie, Ben Kinghton. ***Photos by KEITH RENDELL***

Windwhistle golf

THE Winter Pairs Competition was held over the 29th/30th January.

The format was a four ball better ball stableford competition, played off half handicaps.

Over the weekend 22 teams competed, the temperature was low and the greens were on the firm side to say the least!

When the results were all submitted the overall winners, on count, back were E. Blogs and B. Heath with a total of 38 points. Second also with 38 were M. Hearn and D. Hannaford.

Third place went to M. Bargery and S. Southgate on 37 points, and fourth were M. Corrick and T. Pratt with 36 points.

The competition was closely contested and scoring was very good considering the testing conditions and half handicaps.

Crewkerne badminton

CREWKERNE made it eight wins out of eight as they handed out a 7-2 drubbing to Portland.

Top pairing of Chris Ireland and Helen Taylor hardly had to break sweat brushing Portland aside to easily win all three rubbers.

The second pairing of Francis Chudley and Abi Taylor put in a similar performance, although their last rubber was perhaps a bit too close for comfort with Crewkerne coming out on top 25-23, 22-20.

The final pairing of Steve Pocock and Michelle Brown got off to a shaky start losing their first game 21-9 but picked up their play in the second game just losing out 21-19.

The second rubber proved even closer with Crewkerne coming out top winning 22-20, 21-19.

Tthe final rubber ended up going to three with Crewkerne just missing out in the first game 21-18, then winning the second game fairly convincingly 21-14.

But the tables were turned in the decider with Portland the victors by 21-13.

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■ **DONYATT BOWLS**: Donyatt bowlers travel to Mid-Devon for a 4-rink mixed friendly tomorrow (2pm start). On Sunday there is a league 2& 2 home and away match with St Andrews (10am start) and a 6-rink mixed friendly at home to Crewkerne (2pm start).

■ **SWIMMING**
ARE you interested in competitive swimming? Would you like the opportunity to train under the instruction of a World Class Coach, Zoe Baker, and represent the club at competition level? Chard & District Swimming Club is a friendly club, we have training facilities at Chard, Crewkerne and Axminster.

We are particularly looking for boys aged 7–9yrs but would happily welcome anybody looking to progress with their swimming, with the opportunity to compete at both individual and team events. Check out the club website now on http://www.chardswimming.org.uk

ON THE SPOT...

***WEEKENDER SPORT* PUTS PERRY STREET PICK-OF-THE-LEAGUE MANAGER KARL DIMENT UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT**

Q How long have you been involved in local football? And in what capacities?

A I'VE been around along time. I started playing in the Perry Street League for Haselbury and then moved on to Misterton, South Petherton and Merriott Rovers before moving into the Western League with Frome Town, Chard Town, Bridport, Warminster Town and Street. I then returned to the PSL with South Petherton as a player, assistant-manager and then becoming manager. I've been fortunate to win many titles and cups thoughout my career.

Q Name the three best players you've played alongside and why.

A I've had the pleasure of playing alongside many great players in clubs and League XIs . The three that come to mind are; Andy Bell, Mark Parris and playing with, and managing, Andy Batstone - a great all-round player who is now living in Australia.

Q What are your hopes for South Petherton this season?

A I REALLY hope that the club can regain the Premier Division title.

Q How would you improve things at the club?

A Things are improving all the time, but some dugouts are the only thing that comes to mind.

Q Who are you tips for titles in the Perry Street League Premier and Divison Two this season?

A MY tip for the Premier would be South Petherton but they will be pushed all the way by Lyme Regis who have always been up around the top. Don't write-off Beaminster who have a strong side too. I think Beaminster Reserves will win Division Two; having played against them this season they are the strongest side in that division.

Q Name some young local players we should look out for in the future.

A SOME of the best young players at present locally are; Jamie Spurdle, Adam Caddy, Mike McCormack and Danny Rendell who will be about for awhile yet

NEXT WEEK: Current PSL leading scorer Luso-Chard's Marco Quedas.

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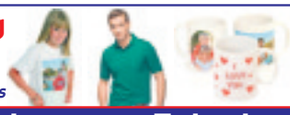
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